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PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES.

SELECTED AND ARRANGED

FROM ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

IN THE OFFICE OF THE

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH,

CONFORMABLY TO ACTS

OF THE
25510
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

FEBRUARY 15, 1851, & MARCH 1, 1852.

BY

SAMUEL HAZARD.

COMMENCING 1778.

VOLUME VII.

PHILADELPHIA:

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1853.



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COL. THOS. HARTLEY TO COUNCIL, 1778.

Sunbury, 8th Octo^r, 1778.

Honored Sirs,

It is sometime since I had the pleasure of writing to you. Anxious for the welfare & safety of these Frontiers, I wished if possible to drive the Savages to a greater distance; By acting on the Defensive only, this could not be effected. The times of the Militia were soon expired, we are now without any of them. I rec'd a letter from Mr Bryan, V. P., by which I understood Col. Morgan & Butler were acting against the Indians on the waters of the Susquehana, this with our former Inclinations induced us to push an Expedition to Tioga & its neighbourhood. I have wrote a letter to Congress, a Copy of part of which I inclose your Honorable Body, By that you will observe our Designs & Rout. Considering our numbers we pushed our good Fortune as far as we dare, we gave a present relief to the Frontiers & turned back the Barbarians from Deluging our Country with the Blood of Helpless Mothers & Infants.

They are a strange enemy, they shun Danger when among us, but near their own Country they fight brave, a number of circumstances happily concurred to give us the victory over them on the 29th Sept^r.

I have wrote to Congress to request that another Regiment should be sent to Wyoming. The Indians are numerous as well as Tories. I must therefore request the Council will order one or two Classes from Lanc^r & Bucks Counties to Northumberland.

It is too late for an Expedition against Chemung this Fall, we must only secure our posts for the Winter & early in the Spring, a Body must march against their Towns on this River, there are more Indians within 150 Miles of this, than within the like distance from Fort Pitt, where so many men are collected.

I have made it my business to inform myself, what I write to the Board may be relied on. I could wish you would second my proposal to Congress.

Capt. Murrow's Comp'y of six months men have shared the fatigues and Dangers with us, they have rec'd but a small part of their bounty, do be pleased to forward some money for them by Mr. Carberry.

We are here on a Dangerous service, which gives us few opportunity's of gaining Laurels; we have a Vigilant & Dangerous Enemy, but it gives us pleasure to think we serve our Country & protect the helpless & innocent.

You will please to give directions that 300 Round Bullets for three pounders, 300 Cartridges of grape shot for the same Bore,

1000 Flints, 6 Barrels of powder a quantity of twine & Port Fire, & a Rheam of Cannon Cartridge paper be sent to this post immediately, we have 8 3 pounders on the Frontiers.

I am Gentlemen,

with the greatest Respect

your mo. obed^t H^ble Serv^t,

THOS. HARTLEY,

Colonel Commandant.

Directed.

The Honorable Executive Council of Pensilvania.

Oct^r 8th, 9 O'Clock, P. M.

By Alexander M^c Afce another Person who escaped from the enemy last Friday, 20 miles above Chemung & just now arrived here, The most of the facts I have mentioned are confirmed, the Enemy are in great force, and are coming down on these Frontiers. If Congress would send two Regiments more I would probably be able to destroy Chemung this Fall, & rid the world of some villians. You will be pleased to order out two Classes of Militia immediately from Lancaster & Berks Counties, not a moment should be lost or you may have your Frontier much lower down than you expect.

I am with every respect,

your most obed^t

humble Serv^t,

THOS. HARTLEY.

P. S Please to send on the ammunition with the utmost haste, besides what I have mentioned before, send 10 boxes of musket Cartridges.

I inclose you a Copy of an address I sent to the Indians. The Board may make use of the narrative Parts of my Letter to Congress as they think proper.

T. H.

Directed,

The Honourable Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

ADDRESS OF COL. HARTLEY TO CONGRESS, 1778.

Oct. 8, 1778.

With a Frontier from Wioming to Allegany, we were sensible the few regular Troops we had could not defend the necessary Posts. We thought (if it were practicable), it would be best to draw the Principal part of our Force together, as the Inhabitants would be in no great danger during our absence. I make a stroke at some of the nearest Indian towns, especially as we learnt a handsome detachment had been sent into the Enemy's Country, by the way of Cherry Valley. We were in hopes we should drive the Savages to a greater distance.

With Volunteers and others we reckoned on 400 Rank & File for the expedition, besides 17 Horses, which I mounted from my own Regmt, under the Command of M^r Carbery.

Our Rendezvous was Fort Muncy, on the West Branch, intending to penetrate, by the Shesheconunk Path, to Tioga, at the Junction of the Cayuga, with the main North-East Branch of Susquehannah, from thence not as circumstances might require.

The Troops met at Muncy the 18 Sept^r, when we came to count and array our Force for the Expedition, they amounted only to about 200 Rank & File. We thought the number small, but as we presumed the Enemy had no notice of our Designs, we hoped at least to make a good Diversion if no more, whilst the Inhabitants were saving their grain on the Frontier.

On the Morning of the 21st, at four o'Clock, we marched from Muncy, with the Force I have mentioned, we carried two Boxes of spare ammunition and Twelve days Provisions.

In our Rout we met with great Rains & prodigious swamps, Mountains, Defiles & Rocks impeded our march, we had to open and clear the way as we passed.

We waded or swam the River Locoming upwards of 20 Times. I will not trouble your honourable Body with a tedious Detail, but I cannot help observing that, I imagine, the Difficulties in Crossing the Alps, or passing up Kennebeck, could not have been greater than those our men experienced for the Time. I have the Pleasure to say they surmounted them with great Resolution and Fortitude.

In lonely weeds and groves we found the Haunts and Lurking Places of the savage Murderers who had desolated our Frontier. We saw the Huts where they had dressed and dried the scalps of the helpless women & Children who had fell in their hands.

On the Morning of the 26th our Advance Party of 19 met with an equal Number of Indians on the Path, approaching each other, our People had the first Fire, a very important Indian Chief was killed and scalped, the rest fled.

A few Miles further we discovered where upwards of 70 Warriors

had lay the night before, on their March towards our Frontiers, the Panick communicated, they fled with their Brethren.

No Time was lost, we advanced towards Shesheennunk, in the Neighbourhood of which place we took 15 Prisoners from them, we learnt that a Man had deserted from Capt. Spalding's Company at Wioming, after the Troops had marched from thence, & had given the enemy Notice of our intended Expedition against them.

We moved with the greatest Dispatch towards Tioga, advancing our Horse, and some Foot in Front, who did their duty very well; a number of the Enemy fled before us with Precipitation, it was near dark when we came to that Town, our Troops were much fatigued; it was impossible to proceed further that Night.

We took another Prisoner, upon the whole Information, we were clear the savages had Intelligence of us some days—That the Indians had been towards the German Flats—had taken 8 scalps & brought of 70 oxen intended for the garrison of Fort Stanwix—That on their Return they were to have attacked Wioming and the settlements on the West Branch again—That Col^o Morgan nor no other Person had attempted to penetrate into the Enemy's Country, as we had been given to understand, and that the Collected force at Chemung would be upwards of 500, & that they were building a Fort there.

We also were told that young Butler had been at Tioga a few Hours before we came—that he had 300 Men with him, the most of them Tories, dressed in green—that they were returned towards Chemung, 12 Miles off, & that they determined to give us Battle in some of the Defiles near it.

It was soon resolved we should proceed no further, but if possible, make our way good to Wioming. We burnt Tioga, Queen Hester's Palace or Town, & all the settlements on this side; several Canoes were taken and some Plunder, Part of which was destroyed.

Mr Carbery with the Horse only, was close on Butler, he was in possession of the Town of Shawnee, 3 Miles up the Cayuga Branch, but as we did not advance, he returned.

The Consternation of the Enemy was great, we pushed our good Fortune as far as we dare, nay, it is probable the good countenance we put on saved us from destruction, as we were advanced so far into the Enemy's Country & no return but what we could make with the sword. We came to Shesheennunk that night.

Had we had 500 Regular Troops, and 150 Light Troops, with one or two Pieces of artillery, we probably might have destroyed Chemung, which is now the receptacle of all villainous Indians & Tories from the different Tribes and states. From this they make their Excursions against the Frontiers of N. York, Pennsylvania, Jersey & Wioming, & commit those horrid Murders and Devastations we have heard of. Niagra and Chemung are the assilums of these Tories who cannot get to New York.

On the Morning of the 28th, we crossed the River and Marched

towards Wyalusing, where we arrived that night at eleven o'Clock; our men much worn down—our Whiskey & Flour was gone.

On the Morning of the 29th we were obliged to stay 'till eleven o'Clock to kill and cooke Beef. This necessary stop gave the Enemy Leisure to approach.

Seventy of our Men, from real or pretended Lameness, went into the Canoes, others rode on the empty Pack Horses, we had not more than 120 Rank & file to fall in the Line of March.

L^t Sweeny, a valuable officer, had the Rear Guard, consisting of 30 Men, besides five active Runners under M^r Camplen. The advance guard was to consist of an officer & 15. There were a few Flankers, but from the Difficulty of the ground & Fatigue, they were seldom of use.

The rest of our Little army was formed into three Divisions, those of my Regm^t composed the first, Cap^t Spalding's the 2^d, Cap^t Murrow's the 3^d. The Light Horse was equally divided between front and Rear. The Pack Horses and the Cattle we had collected, were to follow the advance guard.

In this order we moved from Wyalusing at twelve o'clock, a slight attack was made on our Front from a Hill, half an Hour afterwards a warmer one was made on the same quarter, after ordering the 2^d and 3^d Divisions to out Flank the Enemy, we soon drove them, but this, as I expected, was only amusement, we lost as Little time as possible with them.

At two o'clock a very heavy attack was made on our Rear, which obliged the most of the Rear guard to give way, whilst several Indians appeared on our Left Flank. By the weight of the Firing we were soon convinced we had to oppose a Large Body.

Cap^t Stoddard commanded in Front, I was in the Centre; I observed some high ground which overlooked the Enemy, orders were immediately given for the first & 3^d Division to take Possession of it, whilst Cap^t Spalding was dispatched to support the Rear Guard. We gained the Heights almost unnoticed by the Barbarians, Cap^t Stoddert sent a small Party towards the Enemy's Rear; at this critical moment Cap^t Boone & Brady, & L^t King, with a few Brave Fellows, landed from the Canoes, joined M^r. Sweeny, and renewed the action there. The War Hoop was given by our People below and communicated round, we advanced on the Enemy on all sides, with great shouting & Noise, the Indians after a brave resistance of some minutes, conceived themselves nearly surrounded, fled with the utmost Haste, by the only Passes that remained, & left ten dead on the ground.

Our Troops wished to do their duty, but they were much overcome with Fatigue, otherwise (as the Indians imagined themselves surrounded), we should have driven the Enemy into the River.

From every account these were a select body of warriors, sent after us, consisting of near 200 Men. Their Confidence and Impetuosity probably gave the victory to us.

After they had drove our Rear some Distance their Chief was heard to say, in the Indian Language, that which is interpreted thus: *my Brave Warriors we drive them*, be bold and strong, the day is ours, upon this they advanced very quick without sufficiently regarding their Rear.

We had no alternative but Conquest or Death, they would have murdered us all had they succeeded, but the great God of Battles protected us in the day of Danger.

We had 4 killed and 10 wounded. The Enemy must have had at least threble the number killed & wounded.

They received such a Beating as prevented them from giving us any further trouble during our March to Wioming, which is more than 50 Miles from the Place of action.

The officers of my Regiment behaved well to a Man. All the party will acknowledge the greatest merit and Bravery of Cap^t Stodert, I cannot say enough in his Favor, he deserves the Esteem of his Country.

Mr Carbery with his Horse, was very active, and rendered important services 'till his Horses were fatigued.

Nearly all the other officers acquitted themselves with Reputation.

Cap^t Spalding exerted himself as much as possible.

Cap^t Murrow, from his knowledge of Indian affairs, and their mode of Fighting, was serviceable. His Men were Marksmen and were useful.

The men of my Reg^t were armed with Muskets & Bayonets, they were no great marksmen, and were awkward at wood Fighting. The Bullet and three swan shot in each Piece made up, in some measure, for the want of skill.

Tho' we were happy enough to succeed in this Action, yet I am convinced that a number of Lighter Troops, under good officers, are necessary for this Service. On the 3^d the Savages kill'd & scalped 8 men, who had imprudently left the Garrison at Wioming to go in search of Potatoes.

From our observations, we imagine that the same Party who had fought us, after taking Care of their *Dead & Wounded*, had came on towards Wyoming, and are now in that Neighbourhood.

I left half of my detachment there with five of my own officers, should they attempt to invest the place when their number is increased, I make no doubt but they will be disappointed.

Our Garrisons have plenty of Beef & Salt, tho' Flour is scarce at Wioming.

I arrived here with the remainder of the detachment on the 5th, we have performed a Circuit of near 300 miles in about two weeks. We brought of near 50 Head of Cattle, 28 Canoes, besides many other articles.

I would respectfully propose that the Congress would be pleased to send a Connecticut Regiment to Garrison Wyoming as soon as possible, it is but 120 miles from Fish Kill. I have done all I

can for the good of the whole. I have given all the Support in my Power to that Post, but if Troops are not immediately sent, these Settlements will be destroyed in Detail. In a week or less a Regiment could march from Fish Kill to Wyoming.

My little Regiment, with two Classes of Lancaster and Berks County Militia, will be scarcely sufficient to preserve the Posts from Neacopake Falls to Muncy, and from thence to the Head of Penns Vally.

I am with the greatest Respect,
your most obed^t

Humble Serv^t,

THO^s HARTLEY, Col.*

Comm^d on the Northern Frontiers of Penna.

Sunbury, Oct^r 8^a, 1778.

Directed,

The Honourable Congress of the United States of America.

A Copy.

COL. WALTER STEWART TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Camp, Oct^r 9th, 1778.

Sir,

This will be handed you by Lieutenant Colonel Miller of my Regiment, by whom I do myself the Honor of transmitting you Account of Bounty due to the men belonging to it. I have been often much surpris'd to find the officers send on the recruits from Philadelphia with half, and some two thirds the Bounty due them; it Occasions a great Uneasiness and Grumbling; where the fault lays I shall not take upon me to say. Colonel Miller has my Orders to endeavour to settle the Accounts of those officers who are Indebted to the soldiers, and should I find that any of them have made an Improper use of the money drawn, I shall Immediately put them under stopages until such time as they have settled their accounts properly.

In the mean time I wish Lieu^t Col. Miller could draw about Two Thousand Dollars, with which I shall make shift until such time as I get the accounts of the recruiting officers finally settled.

* An unanimous vote of thanks was passed by Council for his "brave and prudent conduct in covering the N. W. frontiers," &c.—See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 640.

I shall do myself the Honour of writing you further in a few days,
and with respect and Esteem

y^r most Obed't

H'ble Servant,

WALTER STEWART, Col.

2nd Pens^a Reg't.

Directed,

The Hon'ble Geo. Bryan, Esquire, V. President of the Hon'ble
Council of Pennsylvania.

COLONEL HARTLEY TO COUNCIL, 1778.

Sunbury, 7th Oct'r, 1778.

May it please your Honors,

Since writing to you by Mr. Carberry, I have been waited upon
by a number of respectable Inhabitants of this County, who request
me to send to your Honors Mr. Moffit, who was a prisoner with the
Indians, & Capt. Chambers & Coll. Antis, in order that you may be
fully informed of the designs of the Savages & the situation of these
Frontiers, which is really alarming.

I have just rec^d information from Fort Muncy that two Sergeants
of my Regiment were surprised there this morning by the Indians;
one was Killed, the other missing, supposed to be taken.

I am with much respect,

your most obd't humble Servant,

THO^s HARTLEY,

Col. Comm d.

P. S. You will probably think it proper to order some Militia
from Cumberland County also.

yours, &c.,

T. HARTLEY.

Captain Murrows Six Months men refuse to do their Duty till
they receive their Bounty, 80 Dollars ~~per~~ man; do let Money be sent
immediately for them.

Directed,

The Hon'ble The Executive Council of Pensilvania.

The above mentioned Mr. Moffat was brought down to this city
by Capt. Chambers.

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

JAMES DEANE TO PHILIP SCHUYLER, 1778.

Fort Schuyler, Octr 10, 1778.

Sir,

As the Seneca Chief, called the *Great Tree*, who was the summer past with General Washington, returned thro' Oneida, he gave our Friends there the most solemn assurances that upon his Arrival in his own Country, he would exert his utmost Influence to dispose his Tribe to peace and Friendship with the United States, and that should his Attempts prove unsuccessful, he would immediately leave his Nation and join the Oneidas with his Friends & Adherents. A long Time having elapsed without hearing any Thing from the Great Tree, the Oneidas, a few Days since, dispatched a Runner to him, desiring an Account of his Success. The Express returned yesterday with the following Intelligence, which the Sachems immediately forwarded to me by three of their Warriors, namely, that upon his Arrival in the Senecas Country he found that whole People in Arms, and the two Villages, Kannadarege and Jenessee, where he was, crowded with their Warriors, who were all collected from their more remote Settlements; that upon the Great Tree's first Arrival, Appearances seemed to promise him success, but that a Rumour being circulated that the Americans were about to invade them, they had all flown to Arms, the Great Tree with the Rest, and determined to chastise the Enemy that dared presume to think of penetrating their Country. That they are to be joined by all the Indians as far as the Onandagas, a small party of which Tribe are also gone to meet them, and likewise by those of the several settlements upon the Branches of the Susquehannah. That the Senecas were to march the eighth, and the Quigogas the ninth Inst. That the whole party was to rendezvous at *Kannakalo*, a place situated upon that Branch of the Susquehannah called the Tayego Branch, and from thence were to proceed against the Frontiers of Pennsylvania or the Jerseys. Our Oneida Friends rely on the Authenticity of the above Intelligence, & beg it may not be neglected.

I am, Sir, with profound Respect,

your most obedient

& humble servant,

JAMES DEANE.

COUNCIL TO PRES. OF CONGRESS, 1778.

In Council,

Philadelphia, October 10th, 1778.

Sir,

The State of Pennsylvania has for some time past supported a factory for the making of arms, which has been conducted with care and attention by Mr. Peter De Haven and Mr. Benj'n Rittenhouse. As there is no fund provided for the support of this factory, Council have had it under consideration to discontinue it, but as William Henry, Esquire, of Lancaster, has lately proposed to the State to undertake the repairing a great number of arms belonging to the Continent, which the Council apprehend it would be improper for them to do. The Council think it proper, however, before they discharge the workmen, to mention to Congress its present situation; conceiving it probable that they may think it their interest to take this factory into their employ, upon such terms as shall appear to be reasonable. The workmen will be continued a few days, untill the determination of Congress herein shall be had.

I am with great respect,

Sir, your most obedient

humble Servant.

To the Honorable Henry Laurens, Esqr.,

President of Congress.

MARINE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL TO CAPT. WADE, 1778.

Philadelphia, 12th Oct., 1778.

Sir,

The Marine Committee of Congress having applied to Council for your assistance in conducting the frigate *Le Chimere*, belonging to his most Christian Majesty, through the *Chevaux de Frize*, in the Delaware, I recommend that you give the Captain of the Frigate your immediate help in that business, and thereby oblige,

Sir,

Your humble Serv^t.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Philadelphia, 13th October, 1778.

Honorable Sir,

Since my last of the 7th Instant, I have had the honor of receiving and presenting to Congress your Letter of the 10th, which was committed to the Board of War.

The present serves to Cover an Act of Congress of yesterday's date, for encouraging Religion and good Morals, and for the suppression of such Entertainments and diversions as have a contrary tendency.

I have the honor to be,

with very great respect & Esteem,

Sir, your most obedient &

most humble Servant,

HENRY LAURENS,

President of Congress.

The Honorable Vice President Bryan,

PHILIP BRAHM TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Allentown, Oct. 14, 1778.

Hon^d Sir,

There is the greatest necessity for a large sum of money to pay of the Militia of this County, and as Col^d Sigfried, Sheriff, has a considerable sum of the monies raised from confiscated estates, I should be infinitely Obliged, by your Order on Mr. Sigfried, for three thousand pounds, as the Militia are become very Clamorous for want of their pay.

I am, Sir, with the greatest respect,

Your honor's most Obed^t

& very Humble Serv^t,

PHILIP BRAHM,

P. Mr. —.

The Hon^{ble} Geo. Bryan, Esqr.,

Vice Pres^t of y^e Sup. Ex. Council.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Philadelphia, 16th Oct., 1778.

Hon'ble Sir,

I have the honor of presenting to you an Act of Congress of this date, for preventing the spreading Seditious Papers in these States by the Enemy, under cover of Flags of Truce or otherwise, & for punishing persons detected in attempts to disperse such Papers, which will be found within the present Inclosure.

I am, with great respect,

Sir, your Honor's most

humble Servant,

HENRY LAURENS,

President of Congress.

The Honorable George Bryan, Esquire,

Vice President, Pennsylvania.

SAMUEL ADAMS TO TIMOTHY MATLACK, 1778.

Sir,

I am informd that General Clinton designs to send to the Governor or Assembly of each of the United States, Copies of an insulting Paper, called a Manifesto or Proclamation, calculated to promote a Rebellion, and that the one intended for this State is to be sent by Water up the Delaware. And as it appears to be the Design of the Enemy, as far as it may be in their power, further to pursue their barbarous practice of laying waste our Sea Ports, and that they would be particularly gratified by an opportunity of destroying this City; would it not be proper that one or two of your Gallies should be ordered to watch for them in the River, that they may seize their Vessel & bring the Men up, *blindfold*, to be confined & dealt with according to the Laws of Nature and Nations. You will excuse this Hint, and be assured that I am,

Your very humble Serv^t,

S. ADAMS.

Philad^a, Octobr 16, 1778.

Timothy Matlack, Esq.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 595-6.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONGRESS, 1778.

In Congress, 16th October, 1778.

Whereas Congress, on the 22nd day of April, 1778, did Resolve, that "any Man or body of Men, who should presume to make any separte or partial Convention, or agreement with Commissioners under the Crown of Great Britain, or any of them, ought to be considered and treated as open and avowed Enemies to the United States." And Whereas, Congress have received intelligence, that the Commissioners of the King of Great Britain are about to send, under the sanction of a flag certain seditious Papers, under the name and title of Manifestoes, to be distributed throughout these United States, with a view to stir up dissentions, animosities and Rebel-lions, among the good people of these States. And Whereas, such practices are contrary to the laws of Nations, and utterly subversive of the confidence necessary for those means which have been invent-ed among civilized Nations, to alleviate the horrors of War; where-fore, the Agents employed to distribute the said Papers are not entitled to protection from a flag, while engaged in the prosecution of such nefarious purposes.

Resolved,

That it be recommended to the Executive Powers of these United States, to take up and secure in safe and close custody, all and every person and persons, who, under the sanction of a flag, or otherwise may be concerned or engaged in the purposes aforesaid; and fur-ther, that the Papers aforesaid be printed in the several Gazettes, more fully to convince the good people of these States of the insi-dious designs of the said Commissioners.

By Order of Congress,

HENRY LAURENS, President.*

ROBERT LEVERS TO COUNCIL, 1778.

Easton, October 17th, 1778.

Sir,

An Express is just this moment come from Col. Strouds, bring-ing the melancholy account that the Tories and Indians, in the Upper part of the Minesinks, in York Government, are burning and de-stroying all before them. It is said the Enemy are Six Hundred strong, and that Tories join them every hour. It is not to be doubt-ed but they will be in this State soon, and the inhabitants above are

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 595, 596.

all moving, and in the greatest distress & confusion. By a Letter I have seen this morning from Capt. Alexander Patterson, at Col. Strouds, stationed as Quarter Master, it is mentioned that they have neither Military Stores or Provisions, so that, if they should suddenly attack that part of this County, destitute of help as they are, the Country must fly before the Enemy. I understand by Col. Denison, from Wyoming, that a few days ago Three persons were killed near Wyoming, and another was sent in with his life, scalped to his Eyebrows almost. I am persuaded you may be convinced this account is to be depended on, it having been rumoured a day or two, but now confirmed by several persons from the Upper part of this county, who have been near the desolated parts to gain Intelligence; notwithstanding, nothing more particular is yet come to our knowledge here, as Mr. Henry Fullert will set off to day to wait on Council; if any thing farther shall come to hand I will be more particular. By him I have wrote you.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

ROBERT LEVERS.

Timothy Matlack, Esquire.

COUNCIL TO MONS. GERARD, MINISTER OF FRANCE, 1778.

In Council,

Philad^a, October 17, 1778.

Sir,

The Honorable Congress having transmitted to me a resolution of their body relative to Mr. William Straker, taken by the Count d'Estaing, on his passage from Barbadoes, I layed the same before the Council of this State, and I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency, that in judging of the case of that Gentleman, from the evidence now adduced, & especially from his known abode in the Country, & his past conduct, the Council are, in justice to Mr. S., disposed to consider & receive him as a citizen of this State. They do therefore wish your Excellency to treat him as such. And as to his property taken when under the protection of the British flag, should your honour think it proper to deliver it up to Mr. Straker, the Council will esteem it an instance of your polite attention to them & to the interest of the citizens of Pennsylvania.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect,

May it please y^r Excellency,

Your Excellencies most obed^t

& very hum. Serv^t,

GEO. BRYAN, V. P^t.

The Sieur Gerard, Minister Plenipotentiary
of his Most Christian Majesty.

CHAS. DESHLER TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Allentown, Oct^r 17th, 1778.

Sir,

The Hon^{ble} the Executive Council was pleased, by a letter to me, dated March 11th, 1778, to appoint me Comm^{rs} of the Magazine of Provisions, provided by the Comm^{rs} of Northampton county, for the use of the Army. I have, with what diligence I could, attended to the business, and received a letter from Col^l Blaine, D. C^r Gen^l of Purchases, directing me to deliver over what may remain on my hands to the issuing Commissary at Easton, to be forwarded to Camp; this, of consequence, brings my business to a period. Should be glad to know with whom I am to adjust my accompts, and receive my wages.

I am, with due respect,

Sir, your most Obed^t &very Humble Serv^t,

CHARLES DESHLER.

His Excellency, Geo. Bryan, Esq., Vice Pres^t

MONSIEUR GERARD TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

A Philadelphie, le 17. 8bre, 1778.

Monsieur,

La Lettre dont vous m'avez honoré aujourd'hui est la Seule voye usitée entre pouvoirs Souverains, par laquelle j'ai été informé que le Conseil de Pensylvanie étoit d'opinion que William Straker devoit être regardé comme Citoyen de cet État; Ce prisonnier m'en ayant parlé et fait parler je lui ai déclaré et fait déclarer qu'il ne pouvoit obtenir sa liberté que du consentement du Roi mon Maitre ou de son représentant.

Je dois présumer qu'il n'en a pas rendu compte au Conseil dans le tems: Je prens la liberté, Monsieur de le lui représenter aujourd'hui par votre canal et de vous assurer que le délai que j'ai laissé à William Straker n'avoit d'autre objet que de donner le tems au Conseil de discuter amiablement cette affaire avec moi. J'y suis encore disposé comme à vous donner ainsi qu'au Conseil toutes les preuves d'égards et de déférence compatible avec les principes et avec mes devoirs, mais la Conduite du prisonnier ne me permettra de m'y prêter que lorsqu'il sera préalablement remis au pouvoir du

Roi mon maître et à ma disposition conformément à la réquisition
que j'ai faite aux Congrès des Etats-Unis.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec respect,

Monsieur,

Votre très humble et très

obeissant Serviteur,

GERARD.

Min. Plenip.

Mr. le Vice President du Conseil de l'Etat de Pensylvanie.

COUNCIL TO COL. GALBRAITH, 1778.

In Council,

Philadelphia, October 19, 1778.

Sir,

The last accounts from the City of New York, leave no room to doubt but that the enemy are making a considerable movement, and as the object they have in view is uncertain, it is necessary to prepare to repel them, in case they should again invade this state. You are, therefore, hereby required to take every measure to have (two) classes of the Militia of your county in readiness to take the field on the shortest notice. The importance of this order is so evident, that the Council need urge no other motive to you than a regard to the interest and safety of our country.

COUNCIL TO MAJ. GEN. JNO. ARMSTRONG, 1778.

Philadelphia, October 19th, 1778.

Sir,

The intelligence lately received from the city of New York, leaves no room to doubt but that some movement of importance is now making, & from the threats contained in the publication, issued by the British Commissioners, there is every reason to induce the several states to take the utmost precaution for their defense; and more especially those States who have considerable towns exposed to ravage and destruction. The Council desirous of taking effectual measures to prevent any deficiency in command in case the enemy should attempt another invasion of this state, have determined that it is highly necessary for you to be in the city of Philadelphia as

soon as possible, and therefore send you this express. Your presence may be the more necessary in case of an invasion, from the considerable number of officers now here, who could with great propriety act under your command, and would yet feel some difficulty in obeying an officer inferior in rank to you, or of a later appointment.

Orders will be sent immediately to the Lieutenants of several of the adjacent counties to hold some classes of militia to march at a short notice.

COMMODORE HAZELWOOD TO PREST. OF COUNCIL, 1778.

Sir,

As there is some probability that the Enemy may attempt coming coming up our river to do what mischief they Can, I think it would be necessary to have two or three Chevaux De Freeze made ready to sink in the pass at Billingsport, & I Think them with a few Galleys would prevent their Getting through that pass or getting up to this City.

I am your Excelen^t
most obed^t Serv^t,

JOHN HAZELWOOD, C. P. F.

Phil^a, Octob^r 19th, 1778.

THOMAS WHITESIDE, &c., TO COUNCIL, 1778.

We, the Judges of the Several district Elections for the County of Lancaster, do Humbly beg leave to represent to your Honorable Body that from the Information of Sundry the respectable freemen of the borough of Lancaster, that the Election held in said borough was contrary to any Act of General Assembly of this State made & Provided; insomuch that few certificates was demanded by the Inspectors from the Electors, & that readers & Clerks were admitted without being sworn according to Law. There is found on Examination to be a Considerable number of Votes more than Voters marked at said Election, which we conceive our duty to represent to you, the only Body we can look up to for the execution of our Laws.

Sufficient proof can be made of the Facts above mentioned when called for.

THOMAS WHITESIDE,
JOHN LOGAN,
MARTIN BOWMAN,
WILLIAM BROWN,

Lancaster 20th Oct, 1778.

RESOLVES OF CONGRESS, 1778.

In Congress, 21 Oct, 1778.

The letter from David Franks, Esq^r, Commissary of British prisoners, to Moses Franks, Esq^r, of London, enclosed under cover, to captain Thomas More, of gen^l Delancey's regiment, being read; thereupon

Resolved,

That the contents of the said letter manifest a disposition & intentions inimical to the safety & liberties of the United States; & that M^r Franks having endeavoured to transmit this letter by stealth within the British lines, has abused the confidence reposed in him by Congress to exercise within the jurisdiction of these States the office of Commissary to the British prisoners.

Resolved,

That general Arnold be directed to cause the said David Franks forthwith to be arrested & conveyed to the new jail in this city, there to be confined 'till the further order of Congress.

Resolved,

That David Franks, Esq^r, be not, after the 10th day of November next, permitted to exercise directly or indirectly the office of commissary to the British prisoners within the jurisdiction of the United States.

Resolved,

That general Washington be directed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to Sir Henry Clinton, & to inform him, that Congress desire he will nominate a proper person, who, having received their approbation, may exercise the office of commissary to the British prisoners.

Extract from the minutes;

BEL. P. SMITH, for

CHA. THOMSON, Sec^y.

COUNCIL TO THOMAS M'KEAN, 1778.

Philadelphia, October 21, 1778.

Sir,

The Council have now before them the cases of John Roberts and Abraham Carlisle, the determination of which is highly interesting, not only to the criminals but also to the public, Council therefore wish to be favoured, as soon as possible, wth your notes taken on the trials.* They are the more desirous of this from the recommendation of the Petition of divers of the jurymen, signed by you and the Hn^{ble} John Evans, Esq^r., in the case of John Roberts. They remark that you have not mentioned any equitable circumstances which ought to be allowed weight in their determination in his case.

I am, with the greatest respect,

Your most ob^t & very
h^{umble} Serv^t,

T. M.

Hn^{ble} T. M'Kean, Esq.MEMORIALS IN FAVOR OF JOHN ROBERTS AND AB'M CARLISLE,
1778.

To the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

The Memorial of the Subscribers

Most humbly Sheweth :

Sensible as your Memorialists are, that the unfortunate John Roberts and Abraham Carlisle, most justly merit the Sentence which the Law has lately pronounced against them, and of the fairness of their Trials, Yet they are constrained from feelings of Humanity as Christians and proper Principles as Men, to address you in their behalf—Respectable Connections, Lives hitherto well spent except in those fatal Instances which have brought them to their present unhappy Condition—distress'd Wives, and a number of Children, altho' these cannot weigh in the Scale of Justice, they must certainly preponderate in that of Mercy.

That in the Opinion of your Memorialists, the Cases of these Culprits, who had at least ceased to commit farther Injuries against their Country, and evidenc'd their Repentance by voluntarily throwing themselves upon it's Mercy, are to be distinguished from theirs

* The notes in both cases appear to have been furnished by the C. J., and read Nov. 2. Those in the case of *Carlisle* will be found among the following documents. The notes in the case of *Roberts* we have not been able to find.

who continue obstinate in their Crimes, and still remain perpetrating Treasons against these States.

That the Law has its political Effect in the Trial and Conviction of these offenders, and the Power and Vigour of Government is as much evinced by the Act of exercising Mercy as by directing Punishment; and the former has the advantage of convincing the World that the Conduct of these States has not proceeded from Resentment, but from the purest Principles of Liberty and Lenity.

Punishment is inflicted not so much to give pain to the Offender as to deter others from acting on similar Occasions; We then trust, from the present happy Prospect of public Affairs, (of which we beg leave to Congratulate you) that from all human Probability the British Enemy will never again visit this State, and the intestine Enemies thereof be for ever prevented doing that Mischief which a rooted and fixed Enmity to their Country would instigate them to perform. All that we ask on this occasion are the Lives of Mess^{rs} Roberts and Carlisle, by respiting their Sentence till the close of the next Session of Assembly.

And We, as in Duty bound, will ever Pray.

Philadelphia, 29th October, 1778.

Dan'l Clymer,	Wm. Sheaff,	Sam'l Wetherill, jr.,
White ^d Humphreys,	Joseph Ogden, junr.,	A. Wilkinson,
R. Roberts, V. L. D.,	G. Jones, Cpt. of Ar.,	Cpt. Art.
Pers'r Frazer,	Jos. Pennell,	G. Willson, jr., V. Art.
Wm. Gray,	Jons'n Miffin,	Benj. Worrell, Capt.,
Joseph Ford,	Samuel Robbins.	

To the Honourable the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of the Subscribers, Inhabitants & Citizens of the said State,

Humbly Sheweth :

That influenced by Motives of Compassion to the distressed Families of Abraham Carlisle & John Roberts, now under Sentence of Death, we are induced to express an earnest Wish that their lives may be spared.

We conceive, that the only ground upon which the taking of the life of an Offender can be Justified, is the necessity of making examples to prevent the Commission of like Crimes; and the present Appearance of things affords good Reason to hope, that there is no probability that the Enemy will again invade this State, and therefore, that Examples in the present case are not absolutely Necessary.

Your Petitioners, therefore, pray that a reprieve may be granted for the said Abraham Carlisle & John Roberts; and such further Measures be taken by the Council as may, agreeable to the Constitution be necessary to obtain Pardon to the said Prisoners.

And your Petitioners will pray, &c.

Hugh Howell,	George Wood,	Jos. Stiles, C. M. S.,
Wm. M'Dowell, Lt.,	B. Davis, Capts Eng ^r ,	Peter Dehaven,
Edward Bonsall,	W. Emes, Capts Lt.,	Dennis M'Carthy,
Edward Stroud,	James Pearson,	Nicholas Weaver,
Jehosp ^{ts} Polk,	Com'y Mil. Stores,	Sam'l Powel,
Samuel Corsey,	Philip Kinsey.	

MEMORIAL OF GRAND JURORS IN FAVOR OF ROBERTS AND
CARLISLE, 1778.

To the Hon'ble the Executive Council of the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania.

The Memorial of the Grand Jurors, at the last Court of Oyer &
Terminer for the City & County of Philadelphia, in favor of J.
Roberts & A. Carlisle, now under sentence of death.

Respectfully sheweth :

That as there are cases in which humanity may plead the cause of unhappy Criminals, without neglecting the public safety ; and as we wish that Pennsylvania, if she err in the punishment of offenders may ever err on the side of Mercy, we beg leave to intercede in behalf of John Roberts & Abraham Carlisle, whom, all circumstances considered, we cannot but esteem as suitable objects of mercy ; and as such, therefore, we earnestly recommend them to the Hon'ble Council, and are, as in duty bound, &c.

JAS. YOUNG, late foreman,

Seth Ques,	Zeb'n Potts,	Jno. Purviance,
Thos. Pryor,	Wm. Ball,	Rudolf Neff,
John Dorsey,	F's C. Hasenolever,	David Snyder.
Robert Curry.		

MEMORIAL OF MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL IN FAVOR OF
ROBERTS AND CARLISLE, 1778.

To the Hon'ble the Supreme Executive Council of the State of
Pennsylvania.

We, the Subscribers, Ministers of the Gospel in the City of Philadelphia, being truly afflicted with the unhappy case of Abraham Carlisle and John Roberts, now under sentence of Death; deeply sympathizing with their distress wives, children and relatives; earnestly desiring that the Mercy and Forgiveness which we preach, through Christ, may be accepted and copied among men; and hoping that, if possible, the Foundation of our civil Liberty may be firmly established, without the Blood of Fellow-citizens, Do therefore,

Pray that the lives of the said Abraham Carlisle and John Roberts, who are now far advanced in years, may be spared, & such measure of mercy and forgiveness extended to them as may be thought consistent with the public safety, and your petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

William Smith,
John C. Kunze,

Robert Davidson,
Casparus Weiberg,

William White,

PETITION OF THE JURY IN CASE OF JOHN ROBERTS.

To the honorable the Judges of the Supreme Court and Courts of
Oyer & Terminer, &c., for the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania.

The petition of the Jury who were on the trial of John Roberts.

In all Humility sheweth,

That it appears to us, the said John Roberts was under the influence of fear, when he took the imprudent step of leaving his family and coming to reside among the enemy, while they had possession of this City.

That, altho. by the oath we have taken, we found ourselves obliged to pronounce him *Guilty*, yet knowing that *Juries* are but *fallible Men*, and reflecting that the evidence before us was of a very complicated nature, and some parts of it not reconcileable with his general conduct, and other evidence of his good offices to many persons who were prisoners among the enemy, or had leave to come to the city on business,

That, altho' general Laws cannot be framed with an eye of compassion to guilt, yet it is the glory of every wise State, that the doors of mercy should be kept open, and ours has made ample provision in this case.

In compassion, therefore, to the unhappy object of this petition and his distressed family, and relying on the humanity lodged in the breasts of your honors, as manifested to us, in the charge you gave us on the trial, we most earnestly pray,

That your honors would be pleased to join us, and recommend this, our petition, to the Supreme Executive Council, that the penal part of the said John Roberts's sentence may be suspended till the Assembly can take his Case into consideration, for the exercise of that mercy which the Constitution hath lodged in their power.

W. M. Adock,	Andrew Forsyth,	Thomas Corgal,
John Steinmets,	John McNeal,	Isaac Powell,
David Pancoast,	John Drinker,	Andrew Burkhard,
Wm. Rigdon.		

May it please your honors,

Upon the receipt of the above petition, we, the Justices of the Supreme Court for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Justices of the Courts of Oyer and Terminer and General Goal delivery for the City and County of Philadelphia, beg leave to recommend it to your honors favorable acceptance, and that you would be pleased to postpone the issuing the warrant for the execution of John Roberts until the end of the next session of the General Assembly, agreeably to the prayer of the gentlemen of the Jury above named, who were upon his trial.

We are, with perfect esteem and regard,

Your Honors,

most obedient humble servants,

THO. McKEAN.
JOHN EVANS.

Philadelphia, October 18th, 1778.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble The Vice-President and the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The petition of the Wife, Children & other, the Relatives of John Roberts, Miller of Lower Merriion Township.

Humbly sheweth,

That, with the most piercing grief they have been informed the object of this petition, now lyes under sentence of death for high treason.

Should we, at such an awful crisis, remain unconcerned spectators
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of even the fate of a neighbour, or friend, whom we formerly had an esteem for, whose unhappy circumstances were similar to his, in whose favour we, at present petition, we might justly be accused, by all the world, of hardness of heart, & utterly void of all compassion.

Can it then be supposed, we could, upon this more melancholy occasion, remain insensible, when not only the calls of humanity, but the voice of nature, of reason, & all the ties of sacred affection, filial tenderness, consanguinity & affinity, loudly call & demand it of us, to exert our utmost in behalf of our aged husband, father & best of friends?

We do not go about, at this time, to trouble your honors with a repetition of an extenuation of his crime, (tho' we humbly are of opinion much might be said in his favour,) especially as we are informed that other petitions on that subject have, or will be presented to your consideration.

All we have in view is, to recommend him seriously to your honours as a most proper object of mercy, & that you will not, by stretching vigor to its utmost extent, precipitate a family, such as an aged, distressed & tender wife, nine affectionate children, & a numerous train of relatives, into the lowest abyss of misery & woe, but rather hope that you will not deprive yourselves of the inward satisfaction of showing mercy where mercy is due.

We, therefore, the petitioners undersigned (& only his nearest relatives,) do most humbly leave the above considerations, together with his fate, whether of life or death, in the breasts of your honours, humbly hoping you will show mercy to the unfortunate prisoner, by granting him his life, & thereby afford consolation to an already but too much distressed & disconsolate family, & your petitioners will for ever be in duty bound to pray.

Thomas Meteer,
Sarah Meteer,
Israel Whelen,
Mary Whelen,
Hunt Downing,
Jonathan Roberts,
Lydia Roberts,
Anna Roberts,
Sarah Roberts,
Mary Roberts,
Matthew Roberts,
Jona. Roberts, Jr.,
Edward Jones,
Hannah Coupland,
Sam'l Howell,
Ann Howell,
Daniel Wister,
Lowry Wister,

Robert Lloyd,
Catherin Lloyd,
Owen Jones,
Susanna Jones,
Seymour Hart,
Margaret Hart,
John Downing,
Tho. Downing,
John Downing, Jr.,
Elizabeth Downing,
Samuel Downing,
Sam. Downing, Jr.,
Jos. Downing, Jr.,
Joseph Downing,
Richard Downing,
Mary Downing,
Rich. Downing, Jr.,
Elisabeth Downing,

Mary Hunter,
Jane Roberts, Jr.,
Thomzin Roberts,
Elisabeth Roberts,
Ann Roberts,
Jonathan Cowpland,
Sam. Howell, Jr.,
Susannah Jones, Jr.,
Ann Jones,
Martha Jones,
Rebekah Jones,
Sarah Jones,
Isaac Vanlear,
Sarah Vanlear,
Jacob S. Howell,
Mary Howell,
Hugh Lloyd,
Isaac Davis,

Owen Jones, Jr.,	Thomzin Thomas,	Sam. Hudson,
Joshua Baldwin,	Mary Downing,	Martha Hudson,
Mersey Baldwin,	Jane Downing,	Rebeca Parke,
Sam'l Baldwin,	Tho. Downing, Jr.,	Jacob Parke,
Rachel Baldwin,	Hannah Sellers,	Hannah Poultney,
Joseph Bond,	Jos. Sellers,	Owen Biddle,
Samuel Bond,	Joanna Davis,	Sarah Biddle,
Eleanor Bond,	Jane Roberts,	Thos. Paschall,
George Spackman,	Tho. Roberts,	Ann Paschall,
Thomzin Spackman,	Rees Price,	Amos Foulke,
Jane Bond,	Hannah Price,	Jos. Howell,
Sarah Bond,	George Thomas,	Sidney Howell,
Rob't Valentine,	Sarah Thomas,	Rebecca Howell,
Ann Valentine,	Jehu Roberts,	Isaac Lloyd,
Gwen Lloyd,	William Hunter,	Ann Lloyd.

**TO THE HONOURABLE, THE SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.**

The Petition of sundry persons, Inhabitants of the city of Philadelphia, in favor of John Roberts, now under sentence of death,

Respectfully sheweth,

That as it is sometimes more expedient to spare than to punish, we have suffered the feelings of humanity in favor of this Criminal, and his numerous and respectable family, to incline us to believe it may be so in his Case. We therefore beg leave to intercede in his behalf, desiring that if your Honors concur with us in opinion, you may extend the clemency of Government towards him, and your Petitioners, as in duty bound, shall &c.

Jno. Palmer, Capt.,	David Kinzey,	Benjamin Scull,
George Rutter,	Cadr. Dickinson,	Alex. Quarvier,
James Walsh,	Benjamin Davies,	Will'm Hunter,
George Palmer,	Robert Wright,	John Warner,
Samuel Bettle,	Rich'd Topliff,	Leonard Dorsey,
William Betre,	Jonathan Merideth,	Ezek. Letts, Capt.,
Jehu Eldridge,	William Tuckey,	Joseph Davies,
Godfrey Gebler,	John Todd,	John Barker,
Daniel Latham, Jun.,	Adam Alexander,	John Haynes,
Peter Leeley,	Charles Mison,	Rich'd Humphreys,
Jno. Birchall,	Isaac Pearson, Jun.,	Job Butcher,
		John Thomson.

TO THE HONOURABLE, THE SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The Memorial & Petition of the subscribers, Inhabitants of the
City & County of Philadelphia,

Respectfully sheweth,

That your Petitioners are informed that John Roberts, late of Merion, in this County, Miller, is now under Sentence of Death for High Treason against this State. From his general Character we are firmly persuaded (however justly his conduct in legal Construction may amount to that horrid Crime) that it did not proceed from Malevolence and a wicked Disposition, but that Prejudices & Attachments to the late Government were the Motives that induced him to act the Part he did. And as he has by a solemn Act, previous to his Imprisonment, voluntarily renounced his former Connections & Attachments, and declared himself a subject of hope, and believe if opportunity is afforded him, that he will hereafter exert his many good Qualities in favor of the cause he has now adopted, and will become a useful Member of the Community.

We therefore request the honourable Council to suspend the Execution of the said Sentence until the meeting of the next general Assembly of this State, and that at such Meeting they will be pleased to present to the Honourable House this humble Petition, Enforced by their own Recommendation to extend Mercy to the said John Roberts by granting him a free Pardon.

And your Petitioners, as in Duty bound, &c.

Jonathan Powell,	Jos. Mather,	Jacob Jones,
Jacob Whiteman,	Jacob Schuetz,	Jacob Hagy,
Jacob Koon,	Thos. Jones,	Christoph Schuppert,
John Whiteman,	Abraham Rex,	Andreas Koeth,
Wechard Lewering,	Enoch Levering,	Benjamin Howell,
Joseph Levering,	Wm. West,	Adam Schnider,
Benjamin Levering,	James Stroud,	Johannes Burr,
John Harvey,	Geo. Emlen,	Wilhelm Hiltner,
Thomas Livezey, Jun.	Andrew Barge,	Joseph Paul,
John Rex,	Nathan Levering,	Georg Friesz.
Peter Hinckel,	Andrew Wood,	
Henry Miller,	George Meade,	John Knowles,
Matthias Keen,	Tho. Bristoll,	Andrew Keen,
Jno. Salter,	Jno. Edwards,	Alex. Todd.
Joseph Lyndall,	Elias Toy,	
Brian Wilkinson,	Robert Green,	
Nath. Falconer,	Samuel Griffin,	Peter Browne,
Joseph Pendrove,	Peter Z. Lloyd,	M. Hillegas,
Reese Meredith,	James White,	Sam. Simpson,

Will'm Rush,	Gustavus Risberg,	William Pusey,
Jos. Howell,	John Chaloner,	Gerard ^d Clarkson,
John Biddle,	Sam. Lyon,	Jno. Ladd Howell,
Robert Roberts,	George Reed,	Henry Keppel,
John Rice,	George Slough,	Jacob S. Howell,
Wm. Coats,	J. Hiltzheimer,	J. C. Kunze, V. D. M.
Jos. Coperthwait,	Isaac Howell,	Frederick Kuhl,
Jacob Bright,	William Craig,	Adam Zantinger,
Th. Bond,	Rd. Sewett,	Christoffal Ludwick,

**MEMORIAL OF PHIL. & CHESTER Co's., IN BEHALF OF
JNO. ROBERTS, 1778.**

To the Honourable, the Supream Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

The underwritten Inhabitants of the Counties of Philadelphia and Chester beg leave to represent

That they have been informed that John Roberts, late of Merion, in the County of Philadelphia, Miller, hath been lately tried & convicted, is now under Sentence of Death for High Treason.

That your Memorialists have a just abhorrence of that Crime. Yet when they consider that the Conduct which has involved him in his present Difficulties admits of much Palliation; That an apprehension of Danger to his Person had he continued with his Family; And, at the worst, that his mistaken Attachment to former Prejudices rather than any evil Disposition he had imbibed against the Interest of his Country or the Persons of its Rulers, led him to the dangerous Path he pursued. When they reflect too upon the solemn Renunciation he hath made of those Prejudices, and withal upon the various good Qualities he possesses, they think it a Duty they owe Society in general, to his sorrowful Family and Friends, and indeed to Humanity itself, to recommend him, in all humility, to your Honors as one of the most proper objects for Mercy that ever presented itself to the Supream Power of any State.

That those of your Memorialists to whom, either as near Neighbours, by particular Intimacy, or general Report, his Character and Conduct are more intimately known, beg leave, least your Honours should not be acquainted with his Circumstances and his Merits to represent more particularly.

That the unfortunate Prisoner is now near Sixty years of age, hath a distressed Wife, nine Children, and other Connections, numerous and respectable. That he hath from his youth up lived not only irreproachably but spent his whole Life in the performance of the

Duties of a tender Parent, a Faithful Friend, kind Neighbour & useful Citizen.

To the Poor, the Stranger, and the Orphan his hospitable House was ever open, his liberal Hand most cheerfully extended. These, not less than his own Family, would feel and mourn his Loss.

From these Considerations & others they might state to your Honor they have not a Doubt but that showing Mercy unto him would be affording Consolation to an afflicted and respectable train of Relatives and Friends, and a beneficial Act to Society in general by giving back to Life and Freedom one whom your Memorialists are persuaded and have every reason to assure your Honors would become a humane, virtuous & useful subject of this State.

Impressed with these Sentiments they cannot forbear entreating your Honors would suspend the Execution of the Sentence pronounced against him until the Meeting of the Legislative Body of this State. And that your Honors would then be pleased to lay this Memorial before that honorable Body, and will your Honors permit them to hope it may be accompanied with your Recommendation of the unhappy Prisoner as a proper object for their Clemency.

And the Underwritten do also sincerely & humbly, but fervently, hope & pray that the honorable, the Representatives of the Freemen of this State will thereupon, taking the Premises into their wise & serious Consideration, extend unto the said John Roberts the benefit of a full, free, & general Pardon of that offence for which he is now under the awful and solemn Sentence of Death.

And your Memorialists, &c.

Joseph Larkin,	Griffith Williams,	Andrew Willson,
Mordecai Cloud,	James Jones,	Isaac Burn,
Jon. Paschal, Coll.,	Philip Sheaff,	Simon Meredith,
Wm. Kirk, Lieut.,	Joseph Thomas,	Abraham Hughes,
Samuel Ash, Lieut.,	Tho. Courtney,	Isaac Daers,
Joel Willis,	Nath. Newlin,	Elisha Worrall,
Jacob Richards,	Lewis Lewis, Jun.,	Nathan Field,
Jonathan Morris,	Jere. Jarman,	Anthony Morris,
Hugh Lloyd,	Hugh Jones, Capt.,	John Skelton,
Jonathan Richards,	Mord. Morris,	Jacob Humphreys,
Adam Grubbs,	Owen Skelton,	Abraham Lewis,
William Worrall,	Jesse Reece,	Js. Maris,
Jonathan Heacock,	Isaac Farr,	H Ezekiah Thomas,
Marks Willcox,	Joseph Pratt,	Owen Dannelly,
William Kerlin,	Jesse Davis,	Caleb Reece,
Chas. Humphreys,	N. Z. Lewis,	James Hughes,
Robt. Pennell,	Isaac Vanleer, Capt.,	Richard Howell,
Henry Hayes,	Abr ^m Cornog,	Joseph Jobson,
Nn. Sellers,	Jacob Johnson, Lt.,	John Morris,
Clement Smith,	David Morris,	Jno. Hutchinson,
John Lewis,	Fredrick Biddle,	James Boyen,

Philip Moore,	Geo. Peirce,	Baal Keavadin,
Ed. Price,	Daniel Smedly,	Simon Litsenberger,
Sam. Vanleer, C. M.,	Peter Hunter,	Jacob Knoll,
Philip Price,	Jacob Thomas,	William Lawrence,
Jno. Crozer,	Thomas Welch,	Daniel Lawrence,
William Forbes,	Ezra Thomas,	Abm. Liddon,
Peter Salkeld,	Hugh Knese,	Isaac Bartram,
Thomas Lewis, Esq.,	John Hunter,	John Bartram, Jun.,
Thomas Cheyney, Esq.,	Abraham Pratt,	Samuel Jeffris,
Nich. Fairlamb,	Joseph Rhoads,	Jacob Beery,
G. Peirce, L. C. 6th B.,	Israel Moore, Lieut.,	Peter Trexler,
W. Smith, A. P. C. F.,	Nathan Scott,	George Litsenberger,
Sam. Smith,	Samuel Caley,	Jno. Price,
Richd. Armitt,	Willm. Hazelwood,	James Quin,
Jos. Gibbons, Jun.,	Asa Davis,	Jacob Wise,
Peter Hill,	Lewis Jordan,	Nich. Bachin,
Amos Moore,	Mord. Lawrence,	Samuel Humphreys,
Joseph Neide,	Richard Fawkes, Jr.,	Martin Weiss,
John Crosby, Jun.,	Joseph Hood,	Joseph Powel,
J. Sellers,	William Davis,	Martin Miller,
Stephen Paschall, J.,	Joseph Davis,	Benjamin Coatts,
Christian Peterman,	John Cochran, Capt.,	Wm. Lewis, Jun.,
John Fawkes,	Hugh Lownes,	Cloise Johnson,
Lawrence Howard,	Simeon Matlack,	George Gray,
Lewis Lewes,	James Massey,	Thos. Pilkington, Jr.
Evan Lewis,	Edward Hughes,	
John Scott,	James Howard,	
Thos. Cadwalader,	Robt. Aitken,	William Budden,
Philemon Dickinson,	Thomas Elton,	William Marshall,
John Cadwalader,	Matt. Sadlar,	Jo. Sims,
Tho. Franklin,	Jesse Williamson,	Benj. Wynkoop,
Arch. M'Call,	Thomas Liming,	Thos. Shields,
J. Hazelwood, C. P. F.	Isaac Wood,	William Lawrence,
Isaac Roach,	John Jones,	Robt. Eastburn,
Samuel Read,	Wm. Mathews,	Willm. Todd,
John Le Telier,	John Diamond,	Benj. Humphreys,
John Murdoch,	Aberm. Hargess,	Jonathan Bure,
Richard Truman,	Robt. Fitz Gerald,	Edward Middleton,
Thos. Hopkins,	Jno. Sibbald,	Thomas Middleton,
Charles Alexander,	Geo. Houston,	Thos. Fitzsimons,
William Clifton,	William Jackson,	Wm. West, Jun.,
Luke Morris,	Andw. Miller,	Step. Collins,
Presley Blakiston,	Thos. Irland,	Wm. Richards,
Joseph Williamson,	John Wharton,	Andrew Tybout,
Joseph Stamper,	Charles Stedman,	Sam. Howell,
Allen Moore,	Samuel Dilworth,	Jno. Osman,
John Stamper,	Robt. McCrea,	John Pringle,
Fran. Gurney,	Josh. Humphreys,	Rich. Footman.

John Duffield,	Walter Shee,	Samuel Judah,
Stacy Hepburn,	Townsend White,	Thos. Pryor,
John Stille,	Jas. Wharton,	Peter Thomson,
Thos. Paschall,	Geo. Kennedy,	Davis Bevan,
W. O. Calus, Cap.,	Wm. Allen,	John Helm, Lieut.,
J. Powell, Cap.,	Sam. Howell, Jun.,	Rich. Collier, Lt.,
D. S. Franks, Major,	Joseph Ogden, Jun.,	M. Clarkson, Maj.,
Wm. Lawrence,	Jacob Parke,	Wm. Stretch, B. M.,
Jacob Tresl,	Peter Evans,	Philip Wager,
Wm. Alricks,	John Harry,	George Habacker,
Robt. Connely, Cap.,	Martin Whiteman,	Sam'l Garrigues, Jr.,
Jos. Reily, Lt.,	I. Chambers, Col. 1st	Joseph Pemberton
Owen Biddle,	P. Regt.,	Grazier,
W. Whitehead,	G. Nearth, Lt. Col.,	Caleb North, Lt. Col.,
Jno. Taylor,	R. M'Pherson, Lt.,	9th P. R.,
Sam. Moore, Capt.,	Wm. Campbell, Lt.,	Joseph North, Liner,
Willm. Moulder,	Rich. Renshaw,	Peter Fry,
Jno. Whitehead,	Caleb Ash,	John Fries,
Js. Hamilton, Capt.,	Ennion Williams,	George Aston,
Andrew Epple,	Jos. Bullock,	John Little,
Peter Stretch,	John Witmer, Jun.,	Will. Craig, Capt.,
Miles Hillborn,	Tho. Saltar,	Sam. Craig, Capt.
John Pyle,	John Smith,	Samuel Evans,
John Brown,	Sam. Price,	James Woods,
Jno. Shaw,	Thos. Pedrick,	Miles Macarty,
Nath. Squibb,	Raper Hoskins,	Abraham Dicks,
James Rigby,	Jno. Flower,	Isaac Culin,
Isaac Sutton,	Tristram Smith,	H. H. Graham,
Wm. Moulder,	John Flower, Jun.,	Valentine Weaver,
James Maull,	Isaac Eyre,	Wm. Siddons,
Isaac Lawrence,	Lewis Trimble,	John Culin,
John Buckley,	Isaac Davis,	Isaac Pennell,
Jacob Hewes,	John Stephenson,	Isaac Weaver,
Thomas Hatton,	John Caldwell,	
William Beale,	Randal Malin, Senor,	Joseph Malin, Tanner,
Joseph Morris,	John Jones,	Henry Hoopes,
William Owens,	Henry Barker,	John Hoopes,
John Boyers,	Samuel Mackelduff,	Richard Davies,
Evan Evans,	Joseph Darlinton,	Francis Hoopes,
John Bull,	Isaac Green,	John Jones,
Daniel Thomson,	James Guthery,	Jonathan Jones,
John Bowen,	Jas. Lockhart,	Richard Jafries,
Davis Kerlin,	Robert Davis,	Patrick Cannon,
Daniel Bowen,	Levi Evas,	Thomas Roberts,
John Beaumont,	Robert Powell,	David Howell,
Jno. Kerlin,	Christian Sook,	Isaac Jacobs,
Jno. Templeton,	Lewis Williams,	Thomas Berry,
Alex. Templeton,	Henry Atherton, Sr.,	Mankin James,

William Kerlin,	Jno. Pugh,	Evan Jones,
John Malin,	Geo. Ashbridge,	Frances Townsend,
Randal Malin, Jun.,	John Smedley,	Jno. Kerlin, Jr.,
Rich. Richison,	Joshua Smith,	Robert McGoogon,
Joseph Dilworth,	Josiah Hibberd,	Abel Hamer,
John Adams,	John Woodley,	his
David Cloyd,	Joseph Moore,	Tho ^r & McKean, Sr.,
Peter Mathers,	Frans. Trumble,	mark
Wm. Peter,	Isaac Haines, Sr.,	Robert Stephen,
Thomas Mercer,	Benjamin Trego,	Jona Miffin, Jr.,
David Lewis,	Wm. Sharpless,	Nath ^a Moore,
William Hawley,	Thomas Williamson,	Samuel Ramsey,
Jacob Yearsley,	John Darlington,	Lewis Morris,
J. Templeton, Jun.,	John Townsend,	Morris Morris,
William Jenkins,	Marmaduke Wivel,	John Morris,
Elijah Weed,	James Jefferia,	Arther Rice,
Dennis Whelen,	George Leonard,	John Goss,
Tho ^r Evans,	Wm. Richards,	Michael Holman,
Israel Whelen,	Richard Miles,	Isaac Whelen,
Edward Jones,	Isaac Webb,	Rob ^t Ralston,
John Pugh,	Griffith Mendenhall,	John Ralston,
John Brooke,	John Hoopes, Jr.,	Jas. Ralston,
Wm. Roberts,	Samuel Hunt,	Jos. Jones, Sr.,
Charles Reed,	Jonathan Valentine,	Jno. Jones,
Jonathan McVeigh,	James Sheward,	Jos. Jones, Jur.,
Joseph Tuago,	Robert Byers,	Sam ^l How,
Jos. Trimble,	R ^d Jacobs,	James Adams,
Owen Thomas,	John Whelen,	Robert McMin,
John Butler,	Branson Van Leer,	Aaron Phipps,
Joseph Lewis,	Eli Bentley,	Robert Phipps,
Dan. Griffiths,	Jacob Smith,	William Clayton,
Tho ^r Hockley,	Wm. Evans,	Dan. Clymer.
Benj ^a Bartholomew,		
Jesse Maris,	Jacob Prints,	Nathan Jones,
John Maris,	Jehu Maris,	Jos. Sellers,
Jesse Davis,	James Wallace,	Samuel Levis,
Wm. West,	John Leacock,	Wm. Levis,
Lewis Davis, Jun ^r ,	John Smith,	John Levis,
Henry Lawrence,	Isaac Lewis,	John Roberts,
Edward Fell,	E. Roberts,	Joseph Shipley,
Seth Pancoast,	Paul Jones,	John Hall,
Wm. Smith,	Silas Jones,	John Levis Sr.,
Nathaniel Smith,	James Worrell,	Jacob Jones,
James Dougherty,	John Mathes,	Adam Rhoads,
William Downing,	William Tyson,	Abel Moore,
George Haworth,	David Gibson,	James Moore,
Jacob Smith,	Sam. Potts,	Row ^d Evans,

John Smith,	Martin Urner,	Thos Rees,
Rudolph Henly,	Wolary Switzer,	Isr ^l . Jacobs,
John Bough,	Andrew Wolf,	David Thomas,
Jacob Besou,	James Schweitzer,	Tho ^r Cullen,
Conrad Stam,	Freddrick Rinhard,	T. Rutter,
Everard McCloes,	Peter Rinhard,	Jno. Murray,
Tho ^r Potts,	Wolary Rinhard,	John Bern,
J. Hockley,	David Rinehard,	Mich. Corbitt,
John Phillips,		
Wm. Lewis,	David Lewis,	George Garrett,
Jesse Jones,	John Jones,	John Bradley,
William Garrett,	Henry Lewis,	Reece Garrett,
Isaac Williams,	George Adams,	Peter Garrett,
Geo. Hoopes,	John Mather,	David Reece,
James Garrett,	Levi Lewis,	Thomas Read,
William Hunter,	Samuel Garrett,	William Read,
Felix Laferty,	Robert Cunningham,	John Evans,
John Jarman,	Wm. Garrett, Jr.,	Daniel Evans,
Edward Hunter,	John Jones,	James McDaniel,
Richard Fawkes,	Joseph Escreay,	Samuel McMin.
Benj. Hibberd, Jr.,	Isaac Butler,	Benj ⁿ Livesy,
Sam ^l Hibberd,	Robert Evans,	Adam Siter,
Amos Garrett,	John Griffith,	John Thomas,
Enos Miles,	Josiah Garrett,	David Phillips,
Samuel Harry,	Jesse Garrett,	Christopher Hoofman,
Nathan Matlack,	Ellis Williams,	Samuel Bittle,
Samuel Brooke,	Jacob Matson,	William Burn, Sr.,
William Matlack,	Joshua Ashbridge,	William Burn, Jr.,
James Moore,	Tho's Smedly,	John Krim,
Benj. Hibberd,	Isr ^l Jacobs, Jr.,	
Aaron Hibberd,	Nathan Suplee,	Robert Platt,
Algernon Roberts,	Peter Willong,	his
Nehemiah Evans,	Joseph Coulton,	Gillian & Roope,
Joseph Johnson,	Edw ^d Williams,	mark
Joseph Watson,	Richard Ewans,	James Davis,
his	Robert Crain,	Jonathan Supplee,
Archibal & Watson,	Wm. Bispham,	Jesse George,
mark	his	Anthony Tunis,
his	Wm. & Dewees,	David Zell,
Thomas & Campbell,	mark	John Zell,
mark	Matthias Sandham,	Jacob Zell,
John Thomas,	John Day,	Jesse Thomas,
Nathan Thomas	his	Lewis Thomas,
Francis Higgins,	Daivd & Seldrick,	his
Mathew McCrate,	mark	John & Durnal
Robert Craig,	his	mark,
Rudolph Latch,	William & Seldrick,	Abel Thomas,
David Jones,	mark	Edward George,

Isaac Hayes,	John Supplee,	Isaac Ryall,
Phineas Roberts,	Jacob Riebeyr,	Amos George,
his	Frederick Hiller,	David George,
Peter D. ✕ Hansell,	John Davis,	Thomas George,
mark	Jacob Deule,	Thomas Simon,
David Hansell,	his	Conrad Hoover,
Reverdy Sheed,	Sebastian ✕ Sile,	James Jones Jr.,
Jonas Supplee,	mark	Mahlon Hall,
Nathan Road,	David Malin,	James Worstall,
Henry Pawling,	John Lyle,	Philip Rees,
John Moore,	Jas. Barryn,	Jno. Clark, Jr, Major
William Cleaver,	Abel Thomas,	& Aud ^r of Acc ^t
Nathan Sturgis,	Jacob Walker,	for the Army,
Jno. Sturgis,	Isaac Walker,	Cha's Cruikshank,
Isaac Hughes,	Sam'l Richard	Samuel Johnson,
Joseph Walker,	Peter Holsten,	Jacob Charles,
David Havard,	Jehu Jones,	Philip Super,
John Havard,	Joseph Williams,	William Lloyd,
Benjamin Jones,	Jno. Roberts, U. M.,	Samuel Briggs,
Jonathan Tucker,	John Rees,	Dun. Johnson,
Benj'n Eastburn,	Israel Davis,	Jesse Ellis,
James Vaux,	Jesse Roberts,	Jacob Bare,
Jonathan, Roberts,	Lindsay Coats,	William Roberts,
Joseph Roberts,	Joseph Jones, Capt.,	
Fra. Jones,	George Savage,	Joseph Smith,
Jonathan Sturges,	John Bewley,	Owen Roberts,
Jno. Jones,	Evan David,	Abraham Walter,
Israel Jones, Capt.	Isaac Davis,	his
Jesse Jones,	Evan James,	Edward ✕ Roberts,
William Evans,	Joseph Rorley,	mark
Jona. Brooke,	George Fimble,	Joseph Sill,
Abram Nanna,	Henry Wells,	Thomas Wilday,
William Thomas, Lt,	William Ward,	Nathaniel Perkins,
John Thomas,	Samuel Wells,	Jonathan Robeson,
Norris Thomas,	Obe ^t Willdey,	Anthony Levering,
Jas. Hunter, Jr.,	Henry Shoester,	Joseph Bond,
John Morgan,	Mary Miller,	Samuel Roberts,
Joel Woggolrun,	Jonathan Coates,	James Winter,
David Jones,	Thomas Morgan,	Thomas Robeson,
William Jennings,	Elizabeth Crichborn,	Dan. Burrell,
George Fetterman,	Robert Elliot,	Joseph Grover, Lt,
Griffith James,	John Robeson, Jr.,	John Grover,
Jesley Guyger,	John Roberts, Cap.,	Henry Colflesh,
George Guyger,	Isaac Warner,	Isaac Taylor,
Rich ^d Thomas, En ^m ,	Michael Fimple,	Llewelyn Fox Taylor,
Sam'l Evans,	Samuel Torbert, Lt.,	Jno. Lowellin,
Abesalom Priest,	Alex Oliver,	Casper Whiteman,
Hugh Moore,	Joseph Evens,	John Whiteman,

Elias Pugh,	Hugh Jones, Sr.,	Tho ^r Humphreys,
Leonard Hideley,	W ^m . Broades, Com'y,	Phil. Syng,
John Smith,	Hugh Roberts,	Stephen Guttman,
Henry Pugh,	David Lloyd,	Jacob Matson,
Thomas Martin,	George Horn,	Peter May,
David Thomas,	John Horn,	Jacob Zlinsorn,
Peter Evans,	Christ ^r Folkerth,	Fredrick Grow,
Philip Pritner,	Benj. Sheets,	Mickamel Moll,
Stophel White,	Johannes Graurer, Jr,	Rudolph Sibbles,*

MEMORIAL OF BENEFICIARIES OF JOHN ROBERTS, 1778.

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, Do, out of Gratitude and Justice, Certify in behalf of John Roberts, That on the 11th day of December, 1777, when the Enemies of America, commanded by Lord Cornwallis, with an armed force, came a plundering amongst us, the said John Roberts did use his utmost endeavours to save us from that Repacious hand.

And when any of us were taken Prisoners he likewise used his utmost entreaty to have us liberated, and to procure us satisfaction as far as in his power for such of our property as was taken from us by the Enemy.

Edward George,	Heinrich Bär,	John Jones,
David George,	John Roberts,	Jonathan Brooke,
Thomas Simon,	Jno. Durnell,	Abram Nanna,
Jonas Supplee,	Lewis Thomas,	James Parker,
Jonathan Supplee,	Jesse Thomas,	Jonathan Sturgis,
H. Smith, a prisoner,	Abel Thomas,	Peter Evans,
Richard Ewan,	John Righter,	David Thomas,
Thebe Smith, a pris.	Isaac Lewis,	Lenord Hidlay,
John Nevin,	Rudolph Latch,	Hm. Rin,
James Worstall,	Jacob Jones,	Elizabeth Crichtorn,
Wm. Young, a pris'r,	Anthony Levering,	Alexd'r Oliver,
Wm. Leech, a pris'r,	Paul Jones,	John Smith,
J. Hoffman, a pris'r,	Silas Jones,	Griffith James,
Wm. Young, junior,	Wm. Hadelman,	Letey Diddle,
Nathan Jones,	Mary Heston, wife of	Samuel Johnson,
Rees Price,	Capt. Heston,	Jas. Pyott, a prison'r,
Jesse George,		John Kirk,
Jacob Mattes,	Mary Miller,	Thos. Cachen, pris'r,
Amos George,	Israel Jones, Capt.,	Daniel Handy,
Adam Rhoads, a pris.	Thomas Torbert,	Edward Richards,
James Moore,	Hugh Knox,	William Downing,
Abel Moore,	John Loudin,	Isack Davis,

* The foregoing names are distributed among 12 separate petitions all similar to the one now printed. One or two names cut out.

Abel Lodge,	Jacob Humphreys,	Samuel Briggs,
Francis Higgins,	Abigail Lloyd.	Jas. Quin, prisoner,
John Thomas,	Jacob Charles,	Abraham Hughes,
Conrad Hoover,	Michal Bowors,	Nichos. Perkin,
Isaac Hayes,	Ambars Emery,	Joseph Powel,
Thos. Thomson,	Jesse Jones,	William Lawrence,
Mahlon Hall,	Johannas Grauer,	Daniel Lawrence,
Margery Warner,	Thomas Morgan,	Abraham Liddon,
Johan Gorelf, a pris.,	Thomas Butler,	Isaac Bartram,
Thos. George,	Fras. Jones,	Joseph Sheldon,
his	Catherine Jolly,	Fred'k Bittle, a pris.,
Sebastian & Ale,	Peter Matson,	Jacob Knool,
mark	Absalom Priest,	John Stilwagan, jr.,
Jno. Price,	Jonas Yocom,	David Shannon,
John Zell,	Peter Trexler,	Thomas Ellis,
his	Gasper Whitman,	Philip Super.
Walter & Waller,	Michael Cline,	
mark	Obeh. Wildey,	
Philip Syng,	Windle Kingfield,	James Winter,
John Roberts, coop'r,	John Robeson,	Richard Bicking,
Hugh Roberts,	Henry Shoester,	William Broades,
Nathaniel Perkins,	Bartel Righter,	Abraham Walters,
Dan'l Burrell,	Fred'k Heeler,	Isaac Warner,
Hugh Griffith, junr.,	Steffan Guffman,	Owen Roberts,
Joseph Sill,	Martin Miller,	Adam Waybill,
Thomas Wilday,	Jacob Matson,	Joseph Roberts,
Isaac Taylor,	Peter May,	Isaac Comly,
Edw'd Williams,	James Underwood,	Marsena Alloway,
Jonathan Robeson,	Thomas Robeson,	

On November the 17th, 1777, I being taken prisoner by the Enemy, into Philadelphia New Jeal, I aplyd to John Roberts to Get my liberty within the Lines, which he interceded and went Bail for me, and I was set at Liberty, when in the Greatest Extremety of sickness.

I am Informd he was very Kind and Charatible to the prisoners, in General.

RICHARD SHELDON,
A Prisoner.

PETITION OF WM. YOUNG, &c., IN FAVOR OF JOHN ROBERTS,
1778.

To the Honourable the Supreme Executive Council of the State of
Pensylvania.

The Petition of William Young, Jacob Hoffman, William Leech,
John Leech & Martin Walter, Inhabitants of the Township of
Blockley, in the county of Philad^a,

Most Humbly Sheweth :

That they have been Informed, John Roberts, late of Merion, in said county, Miller, now under Sentence of Death for High Treason, most Humbly Pray and beseech the Honourable Supreme Council to Grant a Reprieve for the said John Roberts, till the meeting of the Honourable Assembly of this State, then and there to communicate this their Humbly Petition for consideration to that Honourable House.

March 17, 1778, one a Clock at Night, a party of about 500 Horse & foot of the enemy came from Town, up Harfort Road, surrounded the House, and about a Hundred officers and soldiers went in, searched the whole house for arms & Rebels, as they say, took Jacob Hoffman, Son in Law, William and John Leech, Grand sons to William Young, Prisoner, almost naked out of their Beds, in a very Cold night, obliged them to march 18 miles in a very Icy Rough Road, bearfooted, by which they, & in Particular John Leech, a Lad of about 18 years of age, have so Ruined their feet that they had seen like a piece of Butchers meat and the Blood standing in every step on the ground they walked, and so were put in the New Goal, on account that they had been out with the Militia.

Ten days after a Company of the most Hellish Refugees, called themselves Galloways Volunteers, came from Town, Took William Young, a man most 70 years of age, Prisoner, Took all the Horses, Cattels, Swines, fowels, and left not a living creature on the place except Dogs & Cats; Robbed and Plundered the House of money, provision, Cloathing, valuable Books, and every thing they could find and bring off, so that not for 1500£ can be bought again what these Robbers have Robbed him and his family, and Galloway said that he had certain information that Wm. Young was one of the most active Rebels in America, a very Dangerous person, who constantly did Inspire & encourage the People to go on in their Rebellion, &c., and so did sent him to the old Goal, but after three weeks, by the Intercession of Wm. Hamilton was Released out of Gaol, and on his parole permitted to go about in Town, but not over the Line, and so was he a Prisoner in Town three months. Jacob Hoffman, William and John Leech, after they had been most Two

months in Goal, and very sick, so that some of them did not know any thing any more of themselves, but as soon as John Roberts was Informed thereof he gave himself great Troubles, did do all he could do for them and got them Released out of Goal, and after they had come Home were there still a long while extremely sick, and so had he saved their lives, or at least some of them by all appearance, would certainly have Dieth in Goal.

Martin Walter, a poor Tenant, having a Wife & Ten children, was Plundered and Taken Prisoner by the enemy, and by the Intercession of Jo. Roberts was also Released out of Goal; and the said Walter, as well as all the Rest of your Petitioners, were intirely Strangers to John Roberts, never have seen him before, but not unknown to him by Information; that your Petitioners were all of them Real Whigs and True friends to their country, & to their Dearly Independent Liberty, yet he most Impartial did do goods for them.

As then the said Jo. Roberts has don so much goods to many Prisoners, has thereby even saved the life of several; your Petitioners can also prove, if Required, that he has strongly protested against these wicked Refugees & their wicked actions, and therefore was at last not much any more esteemed as a friend to the king & kings Government, Neither at Head Quarter nor by Galloway.

What a pleasure must it be to every Reasonable man to Read that Resolve of our Honourable Congress, in Recommending to the United States that we wanted Inhabitants in our country, & not to destroy them; that the characteristic of the True Americans shall be Humanity, mercy, charity & forgiveness, and what once Wm. Pitt said in Parliament in favour of America, may perhaps now be suitable for John Roberts, viz., be to his fault a Little Blind & to his virtue very kind.

Therefore, your Petitioners, out of gratitude Recommended the said John Roberts to the Humanity, mercy, charity & forgiveness of the Honourable Supreme Council and to the Honourable House of Assembly, as a man who has Realy done much goods to many Prisoner, so that some even did believe that it was so ordered by Providence that he must be in Town; as a mau who has abhorred the actions of these wicked Refugees; as a man who was always possessed of a charitable Heart; as a man who was always a real friend to the poor, & as a man who was Herebefore always a very good & useful member for the community; and your Petitioners shall as in Duty Bound ever Pray, &c.

William Young,
Jacob Hoffman,
William Leech.

John Leech,
Martin Walter.

Blockley, October 21, 1778.

THE PETITION OF JOHN GEORGE, &c., 1778.

To the Honourable the Supream Executive Council of the Council
of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of John George, and his son John George, Henry
Smith, and his wife Phebe Smith, Inhabitants of the Township
of Blookley, in the County of Philadelphia,

Most Humbly Sheweth :

That they have been Inform'd John Roberts, late of Merion, in
said County, Miller, hath been lately tryed and Convicted, and now
under Sentence of Death for High Treason.

Your Petitioners, in all Humility, beg leave to Inform you, That
on or about the 4th day of January last, we, John George & Son,
John & Henry Smith, were taken out of our houses early in the
morning by a Party of the Enemies Light horse, and Conveyed to
the Common Jail in Philadelphia, and being taken from our Fami-
lies in so Sudden a manner, we had no time to take any Necessaries
with us, and in all Probability should suffered the Extremity of
Hunger & Cold in that Inclement Season to the Endangering our
lives, had not the said John Roberts heard of and administered such
Reliefe to us as was in his Power, and not only so, but used his ut-
most Endeavours by speaking to the Persons then in Power for our
Release, which, after a few days Imprisonment, was granted to his
Solicitation, and we Returned home to the great Joy of our helpless
and Distressed Families.

That your Petitioner, Phebe Smith, sometime before having been
[in her Husbands absence in our Army as a Militia man,] to Philad^a
to seek some Necessaries for her small helpless Children, was stopped
on her return and Committed to Prison, thereby Rendering her
Children objects of Pity, but thro the Humane and Charitable En-
deavours of said John Roberts was soon Released.

In Gratitude for the kindness Receiv'd & Humanity shewn to us
by the said John Roberts, we humbly beg your Honours will take
his Distressed case under Consideration, and suspend the Execution
of the Direful Sentence untill the Meeting of the Legislative Body
of this State, and most humbly Entreat your Honours to Recom-
mend the unhappy Prisoner to them as an object worthy of a full
and free Pardon, and that he may be Restored to his Sorrowful wite,
children and relatives, as he was Instrumental in procuring us that
happiness, no way Doubting his Future attachment to this State.

And your Petetioners as in duty bound shall ever pray, &c.

John George,
Phebe Smith,
Henry Smith,

his
John ~~X~~ George, junr.,
mark

And your Petitioner, John George, humbly begs leave further to acquaint your Honours, that last Spring he had a Valuable mare taken from him by the Enemy to his great loss and Damage, and had no prospect of Redress untill applying to the said John Roberts—he used his utmost Endeavours for the Restitution of the said mare and at length it was granted to his solicitation, and the mare Returned to me again.

her
Catherine M George,
mark.

John George.

DEPOSITION OF SAM'L WALLIS IN FAVOR OF J. ROBERTS, 1778.

City of Philadelphia, ss.

On the third day of November, in the year of our Lord 1778, before me Plunket Fleeson, Esquire, one of the Justices assigned to keep the peace for the said City, personally appeared Samuel Wallis, of the County of Northumberland, Gent, who being one of the people called Quakers, on his solemn affirmation declareth and saith, That sometime in April last, while the Enemy were in possession of the said City, he, this affirmant, happened to overhear a conversation pass between Joseph Galloway, late of this City, Esquire, and Colonel Balfour of the British Army, and then one of the Aid de Camps of General Howe; from which this affirmant understood that Intelligence had been received of a party of American Troops being somewhere over the Schuylkill, and that it was intended to send a party of British in pursuit of them, and that he, Balfour, was desirous of being informed of some person who being acquainted with that part of the Country, might assist the party going out as a Guide or Conductor; Whereupon the said Galloway mentioned John Roberts, as a proper person; on which Balfour shrugged up his shoulders and said, he believed John Roberts was a good kind of man, but that he Balfour, thought he was not to be depended on; That from the words of Balfour, his manner of speaking then & the subject they were delivered, to this affirmant it appeared very clearly that John Roberts was a person in whom the Enemy had no confidence; and further saith not.

SAM'L WALLIS.

Given under my hand & Seal, the third day of Novem^r, 1778.

[L. s.]

PLUN'T FLEESON.

[L. s.] Philadelphia County ss.

I do certify that John Roberts (Miller) hath taken & subscribed the Affirmation of Allegiance, &c., prescribed by Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,

And the said John Roberts, availing himself of the proclamation published by order of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth aforesaid, for the benefit of proscribed persons therein named, dated 8th May, 1778; Hath this day rendered himself to me, Zebulon Potts, Esq^r, one of the Justices of the Peace for the Commonwealth aforesaid, and given sufficient security according to Law, to be and appear at the first Court to be held for said County to answer all such matters and things as shall be then and there objected against him.

And I do command all Sheriffs, Constables, &c., not to detain nor keep in Custody the said John Roberts, on any Account, Cause, Action or thing, relative to the above mention'd proscription, given under my hand & seal of Office, this 19th day of June, 1778.

ZEBULON POTTS, Esq^r.

—
Copy,

To all whom it may Concern—

These are to certify that on the 17th February, 1778, (as appears by the Books of Provisions delivered the prisoners,) John Roberts came to me with John N. Egolf, an American prisoner, for provisions, that they then told me the said John Roberts had got him out of Jail, by becoming security for his continuing in the City. Sometime in March, the said Egolf made his escape out of the Lines, and Roberts was called on by Joshua Loring, Commissary of prisoners under Gen^l Howe, for the payment of his obligation, which was for One hundred pounds Sterling, or to deliver the said Egolf; Roberts calling on me as agent for prisoners; I went to said Loring and requested he would wait until I could write to Col. Boudinot, who I expected would return Egolf; Roberts was engaged to stay as a prisoner within the Lines until the matter was settled; but Col. Boudinot not being at Camp, it lay over for some time, & I believe their hurry for several weeks before they left this place, was the only reason they did not call upon him again.

That John Roberts was frequently with me in the Winter and Spring, showed great kindness towards the prisoners & often wished it was in his power to release them.

Philadelphia, 27th October, 1778.

THO'S FRANKLIN.

JOHN CARMICHAEL TO PRESIDENT BRYAN, 1778.

May it please your Excellency,

Application was made to me yesterday, the 22d of this Instant, October, to sign a petition to your Excellency and the other Members of the Honourable, the Executive Council, in behalf of a certain John Roberts, under Sentence of death for high Treason, that the Honourable, the executive Council, would be pleased to suspend the execution of said Sentence till the meeting of the New Assembly, &c. But as I am not any at all acquainted with the unhappy Prisoner I could not, in justice to truth and my own character, sign the petition, not being positive, to my own certain knowledge, of those things urged in said petition in favor of John Roberts. I am every ready to do any thing in my power to any object in distress consistant with a good Conscience. I do therefore venture to say to your Excellency, and the honourable Council, that if you can see it to be consistant with the safety of the State and the unalienable Rights of just & good Government to grant the prayer of said petition in that particular, I believe it may answer valuable Ends.

Mercy, we are sure, is before Sacrifice. Mercy is the most amiable attribute and the most endearing, that can be displaid to the guilty, and undeserving of which all the inhabitants of our fallen world of mankind stand in need; but it loses its amiableness, it ceases to be mercy if displaid at the expense of Justice.

If in this manner you can exercise it in the present case. I cannot but believe it may answer this further good end as an happy ingredient to sweeten the minds of those of the prisoner's connections, Relatives and Friends who may have been heretofore sour and disaffected to our free, and therefore, in my opinion, happy, New Government.

Some of the Relations of the prisoner I am acquainted with, his brothers in Law, Richard, John & Joseph Downing, of this Township, & I hereby assure your Excellency they bear a good character, for honest, sober, industrious, peaceable, inoffensive people, who have not (that I have heard) taken any active part on either side since the war began, but have kept themselves quiet, agreeable to their quaker principles. It would have been happy for Roberts, and many like him, to have done the same as well as to this State, whose officers are pained to be put to the disagreeable necessity of inflicting its penalties on the disobedient and disaffected. But, Sir, I beg pardon for the freedom I use in this Letter; it but ill becomes me to dictate to the first officers in the State. May God direct you in

every stage to such measures as may terminate to the divine glory
and the good of mankind, & believe me to be

Your Excellency's most obedient
and very humble servant,

JOHN CARMICHAEL

East Caln, Chester County, October 23d, 1778.

Directed,

To His Excellency, George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of the
Executive Council Philadelphia.

NOTES OF C. J. MCKEAN IN CASE OF AB'M CARLISLE, 1778.

Philadelphia, Septem^r 25th 1778.

Republica	}	Indictm ^t for Treason,
vs.		
Abraham Carlisle,		

* Jurors.—John Palmer, John Lynn, Isaac Powell, Cadwallader
Dickinson, Philip Klomberg, Thomas Shields, Jacob Utrie, David
Rees, Thomas Goucher, Thomas Palmer, John Drinker, and
Matthew Jackson,

Mr. Attorney General—

8 Charges, 1. Taking a commission, 2. Levying war, 3. Aiding &
assisting the Enemies of this State.

George Bruner—

Mr. Ross objects,—No overt act laid of levying War, Foster 194,
an overt act must be laid & proved in compassing the King's death,
in levying war & also in adhering to the King's enemies. Foster
244-5-6, to the same purpose.

Mr. Lewis & Prisoner—

I insist upon same thing.

Mr. Jas Wilson—

The charge ought to be certain,—Foster 246; Vaughan's Case—
1st in civil cases,—1 Strange, 480; 2 Strange, 1200; 2 Wilson,
148-9; Law of Nisi Prius, 192-3. 2nd In Treason—1 Hale, 121.
If an overt act is laid, and another overt act of the same species of
treason is proved, it is sufficient; Hale himself contra, the overt act
laid ought to be proved which is laid.

Mr. Attorney General—

An overt act is laid in the indictment—answers Foster, 194; the

whole evidence need not be set out if divers overt acts are laid, & one is proved it is sufficient,—if reasonable certainty in Indictment this is sufficient ; answers Foster, 244-5-6. Also the other cases, all only say there ought to be sufficient certainty.

The charge is laid with sufficient certainty, Foster 216, 219, 196-8, 217-18. Precedent of an Indictm^t for levying war, Foster, 5 & 6; Foster, 9 ; one of the overt acts laid is, *assembling & marching in a warlike manner, &c.*, Foster 22, he was *with the rebels at Aberdeen & several other places*, & was appointed collector of the Excise, & actually collected money, 246.

Mr. Reed,

Charge, holding a commission, overt act, watching over & guarding a gate of the city, &c. ; other overt acts not laid, such as seizing goods, impressing people, &c., are certainly overt acts proving his holding a commission.

Mr. Ross, replies,

No overt act laid.

Mr. Wilson, do.

George Bruner,

No. 1. He knows the Prisoner at the bar. Captain Shafer's wife applied to him that he might remove her goods if he pleased, he did not choose to do it without a Pass for his safety ; a pass was procured from Head Quarters in town ; he came to her with 2 horses in a cart ; he stopped at the office where Pris^r was, and asked him if pass was good, Pris^r replied why not, but to stop as he came back ; he took Capt^r Shafer's goods from town & when he got back to the office where P. was, a Serjeant stopped him, he asked Serjeant if he might not pass, the Serjeant said no, *not without P. permission*, he asked P. if he might pass, P. asked him who he was, he told P. he was George Bruner, who had been there in the morning ; he went out ; Serjeant asked him if he had any ~~Phibited~~ goods, he told him he had some salt which one of the neighbours had put in the cart, Serjeant said it must not go *without the consent of P.*, & took it & showed it to P., who said no *by no means it would be a prize to the Rebels* ; then P. ordered the bed to be searched, where there was some pewter ; Serj^t demanded keys of the chests, he told him he had them not, then P. & Serj^t concluded how to open them, P. said he had a chisel & mallet in the office, Serj^t got them & broke open one of the chests, which contained *sugar, coffee, tea & salt, 2 powder horns & a shot bag, ab't 2 loads of powder*, the other chest was full of house carpenters tools ; then P. ordered everything to be taken out of the cart & to be carried into the office, so that they might take an inventory of them ; as soon as that was done P. called him a *rebellious rascal*, you'll be hanged said he, but since it is a rebel affair the Devil relieve you ; Serj^t then asked P., what must we do with him, P. said get a guard & send him to head quarters ; when guard

came Serj^t ask^d P. if it was useful to send all the goods to h^e q^r, P. replied yes, *the prize will be the greater*; he was carried to H^e Q^r, thence to Galloway's office & from thence to the provost to the old goal. On Sunday the 3^d day after P. & Serj^t came to the old goal & took an inventory of the goods; he asked P. if he would buy a bed for him, one of the s^d beds meaning, for it was cold & he had no bed clothes; P. told him, give him money & he w^d; next day he helped to take the goods down stairs of the goal, where they were sold at the goal corners. The day after the Sale, William Wells bailed him out of goal.

About 2 weeks after he came to town, at the gate P. & Serj^t were still, also one John Knight, who sent him back to the goal to get a bill of costs. P., as he came out of town said, he had heard General Washington had offered 500 d^r for taking P., but P. said he would advertize 50 round do. for Gen^l W. w^{ch} would take him sooner.

Jurors,

He never saw his cart or horses since; this was after Christmas in the W. There was a bushel & 3 pecks of salt in all.

Peter Cooper,

2. Knows P. Early last spring P. asked for a pass to go out the lines for flour, he gave him one; he delivered it to the *British Picket*, who let him pass, and he brought in the flour; he got the pass at the office, Weaver's house; every body might come but no body go out without a pass. He did not hear P. give any direction to the guard.

Margaret Sweeble,

3. She knows P., saw him in Front street; P. searched her when she went out to get flour, asked her if she had any salt for the rebels, she said no, she said he had nopasses for he had given 800 that day, but he went with her to the guard, and desired them to let her pass, and they did so. At two other times he gave her written passes. P. let every body go out for flour; she paid nothing for passes. P. searched her pockets & a bag she carried under her arm.

Mary Honey,

4. P. and a company came to her house last spring, & took her salt & two guns from her, they put a mark upon them, there were no soldiers with them. John Clark put her husband in goal; she had a couple barrels of salt; P. was there at some other times; nothing was taken away, for her husband came out of gaol in two days after; John Clark took the guns away; she thinks P. was there every time, but not certain; they called them nothing than Rebels. John Clark came there to distrain for rent; she lived in Clark's house; owed him a quarter & an half's rent; John Clark said nothing ab^t the rent, he gave her seven or ten days to move out of the house. As soon as her husband came out of goal he p^d Clark the rent.

Mrs. Dorothy Sheaffer,

5. After her goods were seized, she, two days after, called upon P. to know why they were seized, P. told her to go about her business, she was juggling, and if she did not begone he would send her to goal after them; this was at P. office, near the lines, he was there alone; P. had before given her liberty to take out her moveables and a chest of tools. P. went with her and a great many others, (abt 15) to the Picket, who let them pass.

Daniel Hoffman,

6. When English were here he came from Kensington, & in front street P. called after him, and asked him where he came from; he told him. P. said I thought you had been with the Rebels but he lived in Arch street; P. would not believe him; and seeing a number of officers, he called them and said, that man should not be allowed to walk about here, for he is one of the biggest Rebels in Philad^a; P. asked him, where are your regimental coats now, he answe^d he had wore them out; P. told the officer, that is the man that damned the King, he denied it; Officers ordered P. to take him to the Provost, for that he must be hung; P. went with him towards the Provost, walked a little behind him, but near the barracks he gave him the slip, & went into a house, he then went home. About three weeks before the English went away, P. Caught him standing in his porch, and seizing him by the breast said, *you rebel son of a bitch I have got you again, you know I was ordered to bring you in goal, and you shall go in goal now.* A Hessian minister lodged in his house and he sent his servant down stairs, and swore at Carlisle in Hessian to let him go, and P. accordingly let him go. He was out of town the greatest part of the Winter.

Mary Sneider,

7. She came to town to see her daughter, and brought cabbage & butter for her, and brought her maid with her to take her horse back; she sent a pair of shoes, 3 quarts of salt with the maid, but horse & all were taken from her; she hearing of it came out to the office, and a soldier asked her if she was sick; Prisoner said *give the Rebel Bitch some Physic to cure the vapours.* P. gave her her horse next day, & told her he had fed him, &c.

Peter Stonemits,

8. P. told him, when English were here, that he was a great rebel, that P. could *kill an hundred rebels and pity not.* P. gave Passes.

P. had neither gun nor sword.

John Huston,

Mr. Ross,—1 Hawkins, 39.

Attorney General,

Foster, 200.

Witness over-ruled by the court, as the testimony opened would only prove misprision of treason.

George Honey,

9. John Clark and others did not come to seize for rent. The 2 barrels of salt were marked G. R.

Clark afterwards brought a Constable & Seized other goods, rent was soon after paid.

Jonathan Guy,

10. Whilst he was a prisoner in Phil^a, & after he was released from the Provost, he drove a waggon in the light infantry of 2 Reg^t of guards—he was stationed at the sign of the Lamb, near Kensington, saw P. & a young man, with a sky coloured cloth coat, *whom he had often seen buying Paper money*, along with him—he overheard P. say to young man, *to be very particular about Craig's light horse, and let him know what force he had.* This was on Tuesday, and the young man was to return on the next Thursday week.

Saw P. at Jonathan Smith's, ab^t 6 miles from town, often. P. *gave passes, let people in & out.*

Near 10 minutes, within 18 inches of P. and young man, but could not hear any more distinctly.

Geo. Warrington,

11. *Prisoner came into their houses and marked the salt with G. R.*—he saw P. mark it with his own hand with chalk—he asked what they had so much salt for, and observed, they had got it from the soldiers and intended to send it out to the rebels—they took 2 guns.

A paper written by Joseph Galloway to Captain Thomas, wherein he mentions Prisoner as a person appointed by the Commander in Chief to superintend one of the Passes. Given in evidence.

For the Prisoner.

Jacob Weaver.

1. Prisoner always used him well—they were going to turn him out of his house, but P. said he would go & speak to the General for him; he kept him in. P. has given *two or three hundred Passes in a day*—some he gave Passes to without speaking to them, *others he took into a room and examined them*—does not know what he asked.

He found a letter directed from Mr. Galloway to Captain James, in the room P. used. The Constables took it from him—General W. ordered the Frankfort Mills to be broke down.

Captain Thomas took the room of P.—P. got the room from a Hessian Officer. Afterwards Thomas took the room from him—P. staid there ab^t 3 weeks.

Edward Reeves,

2. Got leave from P. at any time to go out—ab' 8 weeks after the enemy came in; P. told a neighbour, who observed he had a disagreeable office, that his greatest inducement to accept it was to serve the poor people, and he supposed he would get nothing for it, that he asked nothing for it.

Rachel Harrison,

3. Prisoner behaved very clever to her, let her carry her furniture out and two pieces of linen. This was about 2 months after the English came in. People daily went out, the roads were crowded.

When she came out, she had liberty from some of Gen'l W's officers the last time.

Hannah Allman,

4. P. always treated her with civility; her husband was an officer in Gen'l Washington's Army, & P. knew it.

P. told her he was tired of the office, wanted to quit it, and fully intended it, tho' many of the inhabitants might want the necessaries of life. In beginning of January he permitted her to carry out other things.

Mary House,

5. P. let her go out without searching her—was civil.

Catharine Hide,

6. Her things had been taken from her by the British Soldiers, and P. got them back for her. P. knew her husband was not in our army & had continental stores with him.

Edward Williams,

7. P. kept the gates—his father lived ab' 8 miles from town. P. said he was in a deplorable situation, & let him go out from the latter end of November to the end of May, & carry rum, sugar, &c., to his father.

Catharine Coleman,

8. P. granted her a Pass to take out different persons, & beds at different times. Peter Sommer's wife was one of them, & also Shrivvers—their husbands were at the fort at the time.

Elizabeth Preston,

9. Her husband is an officer in our army—P. knew it; & yet let her carry out goods, &c. P. passed her daughter out to get wood & provisions.

Provisions were plenty in the city just before the Shipping got up in November—meat, & such like, were plenty to those who had hard money or old money.

Hannah Saunders,

10. P. gave many Passes—he never refused any—Inhabitants begged P. to continue at the Pass.

Nathaniel Brown,

11. P. gave Passes at the Bridge—he gave witness a pass for his sister, her children, & a chair full of property, &c.—was very indulgent. Prisoner told him abt 4 weeks before Enemy went away—he was tired of his office, but the people would not let him quit it.

John Paul,

12. Last winter P. passed a great number, insomuch *that the other party threatened to have him removed from his office on acc't of his lenity.* Heard Colo. Balfour say, if P. did not behave better *he should be turned out of office.* P. said he did not know that he had *done amiss.*

Mr. Attorney General—Berwicks case, fo. 10.

Mr. Reed,

Penal Law—from 105.

One overt act being proved, others may be given in evidence—Foster 9, &c. As to Commission—Foster 10. P. gave in his name as a Lieutenant. Foster pa. 22—216, 219.

Mr. Wilson, ~~Q~~ Prisoner,

No commission, such as is mentioned in the Indictments, has been proved. Prisoner never used sword or gun. No commission proved at all—a commission in parchm^t or paper not necessary to be produced, but better evidence ought to have been given.

1 Blackstone, 88—penal laws must be construed strictly, *ibid.* 92—the law must be construed according to the letters, in criminal cases.

Assembly had in view only commissions in the line or in the staff of the army.

Taking Sheaffer's goods is only proved by one witness, Bruner. Mrs. Sheaffer does not come up to another witness.

Confession of P. is not sufficient to convict und^r Act of Assembly, the treason must be proved by two witnesses.

The send'g out a Spy—doubts cred^t of the witness, but one witness to this fact.

Mr. Lewis,

Insists upon the same thing.

Vatel Book I., 87, 88—101.

To take an Allegiance Oath is in general High Treason.

It is allowable for a conquered city to join the Conquerors.

People in Philadelphia were not und^r the protection of the laws.

Mr. Ross,

Foster 207. 4 Blackstone, 80. 1 Hale, 56. Eden, 21, 22.
Attorney General.

Respublica Pennsylvania }
 va. } Indictment for Treason.
Abraham Carlisle, }

Mr. Ross,

1 Edw^d, 6; 5 & 6th Edw^d 6; 1 & 2 Ph. & Mary ch., 10 & 11; & Moves that the 25th Edw., 3, cap. 2; 7 Will. & 7 Anne; a copy of the Indictm^t & the names of the witnesses indorsed, ten days before the trial, and a copy of the panel two days before trial.

Mr. Wilson,

Treason at common law indefinite & not ascertained, 1 Hawk. fo., 34; 4 Blackstone pa. 75; 1 Hale fo. 81. By 25th Edw^d, 3, ch. 2, it is ascertained and fixed; the Parliament who enacted this act are called the *Benedictum Parliamentum*, the only rule ever since in England, except that by the 7th William, the prosecution must be within 3 years.

It became necessary to ascertain the manner of *proceeding* in treason as well as to ascertain the crime.

2 Hawk. fo., 256, mentions 1 Edw^d, 6. Party charged with treason must be convicted by two witnesses or by voluntary confession, 1 & 2 Ph. & Mary ch. 10, all treasons to be had & used according to the due order of the common law; ch. 11, does not relate to the present motion.

7 Will. ch. 3, No person shall be tried, whereby *any corruption of blood shall be wrought*, without, &c., 3 years after the offence committed.

4 Black. fo. 345, mentions 7 Anne, ch. 21; a copy of Indictm^t & of names of witnesses to be given Prisoner charged with treason, 10 days before trial. Body of Laws, 67; all trials for treason to be according to the proceedings in Great Britain.

Witnesses names ought to be known to the accused, that the party may know what part of his conduct was known to them, also the characters of the witnesses.

Read's pa. 4 & 10, of Laws of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. How far one Statute repeals another, if two statutes can subsist without contradicting one another, they both must stand. 11 Co., 63, a. b.

Mr. Ross,

1 Hales P. C., 79; The uncertainty of treason at Common Law. The act of 11th Feb., 1778, does not repeal the act of 1718; Act of

Commonwealth, fo. 4, where Legislature takes notice of a smaller offence, it shall not be construed to extend to a greater crime.

The Act of 11th Feb., 1777, which directs that persons charged with treason shall be *dealt with & proceeded ag't* as in other capital crimes is by *law* directed.

The act of 1718 is thereby extended.

Mr. Serjeant, Attorney General,

What was treason at common law, the arbitrary proceedings in arbitrary reigns are nothing to the present question.

4 Blackstone, 352 & 3; Laws of Pennsylvania very different & more beneficial.

There can be no treason in compassing the death of the King, there is *no corruption of blood* in Pennsylvania.

4 Blackstone, 94, All treasons are felonies, tho' all felonies are not treasons, Foster 6, 4, 221, 228.

Replication by Mr. Wilson,

If the Statutes are not extended here, we shall be all afloat as if we were before the 25th Edw^d 3, ch. 3.*

MEMORIAL OF JURORS AND JUDGES IN FAVOR OF ABRAHAM CARLISLE, 1778.

To the Hon'ble the Judges of the Supreme Court and Court of Oyer & Terminer for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of the Jurors who were on the Trial of Abraham Carlisle,

Humbly Sheweth:

That altho' by the Oath we had taken, and upon the whole of the Evidence before us, we were constrained to give our Verdict against him, agreeable to the Laws of our Country, yet from the knowledge we have of his former blameless character, the consideration of his advanced age, and our sympathy with his distressed Family and reputable connexions, our sentiments of Humanity lead us to wish that the Rigor of the Law may be abated in his case.

That from the benevolent charge given to us upon his Trial, we cannot doubt but he has an equal share of your Honor's compassion, and therefore we are encouraged to Pray,

That your Honors would be pleased to recommend this our Peti-

* These are the notes in the case of A. C., referred to in the letter to G. J. McK., in page 21 which (with those in the other case, not now to be found,) were presented and read in Council, Nov. 2, 1778. See Col. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 618.

tion in his Favor, to the Hon'ble the Supreme Executive Council, that the Execution of this Sentence may be suspended till the meeting of the hon'ble Assembly, & that they be intreated to take his unhappy Case into their consideration, for the Exercise of that Mercy which every wise Constitution has provided for mitigating criminal Punishments, and which ours has thought proper to lodge in their power only.

And your Petitioners shall pray, &c.

Jno. Palmer,	Jacob Uttree,	Thomas Shields,
Thos. Palmer,	Philip Clomberg,	John Drinker,
Cad'r Dickinson,	David Rees,	Thomas Goucher,
Isaac Powell,	Matthew Jackson,	John Lind,

May it please your Honors.

Upon the Receipt of the within Petition, we, the Justices of the Supreme Court for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Justices of the Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery for the City and County of Philadelphia, beg leave to recommend it to your Honors favorable acceptance, and that you would be pleased to postpone the issuing the Warrant for the Execution of Abraham Carlisle, until the End of the next Session of the General Assembly, agreeable to the prayer of the Gentlemen of the Jury above named, who were upon his Tryal.

We are with perfect Esteem and Regard,

Your Honors most obedient

humble servants,

THO. M'KEAN,
JOHN EVANS.

Philadelphia, Oct. 18th, 1778.

To the Hon'ble the Vice President and the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

MEMORIAL IN FAVOR OF ABR'M CARLISLE, 1778.

To the Hon'ble the Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of the Wife, Son, and others, the nearest relatives of Abraham Carlisle, in his behalf,

Respectfully sheweth :

That as the common evils of life are sufficient to excite a tender sympathy in the minds of the generous & compassionate, tho' unconnected, you will readily think it is difficult to express the anxiety we feel on the present mournful occasion, when we thus appear

to intercede for the life of a husband—a father—and a friend, who has been dear & affectionate to us in his whole deportment.

However desirous we are to enlarge on the merits of his private character, or to extenuate the criminality of his public conduct, from a more intimate knowledge of his views and intentions, than others could have, we chuse to wave it, trusting that there are some of his fellow-citizens, of respectable names, who have done this friendly office in our behalf.

The great object that engrosses our solicitude is to petition for his life; and that on any terms, which to your wisdom & discretion may seem most expedient.

When we look back on the former ease & happiness of his family, which is lost, or forward to the dreadful evils that impend, we cannot view the one without extreme regret, or the other without horror, almost too great for some of us to sustain.

Suffer us therefore, in a few words to intreat you on our own account, as well as his—by the mercy & forgiveness you expect from God—by that compassion you would desire from others—by the tenderest ties of nature & consanguinity—by the exalted pleasures of conscious beneficence, and the sacred duties of our common Religion, to spare the life of a fellow-citizen, as well as thereby relieve the miseries of a disconsolate family,

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, shall, &c.

Thomas Hood,	Martha Coats,	Marey Deves,
Ann Wood,	Rachel Hartley,	Mary Bright,
Mary Hood,	Sarah Moulder,	Sarah Moulder, jr.,
Ann Carlile,	Elizabeth Durborow,	Hannah Brooke,
Abr'm Carlile, jr.,	Hannah Newton,	Sarah Shallanger,
Daniel Rees,	Hannah Williams,	Edward Brooks, sr.,
Elizabeth Bethell,	Samuel Robeson,	Joannah Brooks,
Frances Rush,	William Lake,	Mary Zane,
Joseph Rush,	Mary Volans,	William Preston,
Sarah Rush,	Edward Simmons,	Hannah Preston,
Hannah Saunders.	Elizabeth Simmons,	Sacher'l Wood,
John Saunders,	Sarrah Hart,	John Hood,
Wm. Coats,	Marthew Brooks,	Mary Hood.

MEMORIAL IN FAVOR OF ABR'M CARLISEN, 1778.

To the Honorable the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of the Subscribers, Inhabitants of the City and County of Philadelphia, in Behalf of Abraham Carlile, of the said City, now under Sentence of Death for High Treason,

Respectfully Sheweth :

That altho' his conduct was such as rendered him an Object of the Justice of the Law of Treasons, yet, from the Evidence on his Tryal, it was tempered with such alleviating circumstances, as in the humble Opinion of the Subscribers, render him a fit Object of the Mercy of the Pardoning power of the State. Your Petitioners have reason to believe that his Acceptance of an Appointment under the Enemy, to watch one of the City Gates, was the Effect rather of an undue Attachment to his own Safety and Interest, perhaps of an Opinion that he would be thereby of Service to his Fellow-Citizens, than of a Malicious and deliberate Intention to aid and assist the Enemies of the United States, in their pernicious system of Oppression, Tyranny & Barbarity. If he did hurt to some, he did good to a much greater Number, and of this greater Number many of Your Petitioners compose a part. The former has brought him under the Judgment of the Law. Permit Your Petitioners to entertain a hope, that the latter will procure for him, and his distressed Family and Connexions, the most favorable Representation from Your Honors to the Legislature of this State, and of his Situation and the Circumstances attending his Conduct, of which Your Petitioners flatter themselves, the consequence will be a Gracious pardon, and that he will, by a course of Behaviour contrary to that which he has lately observed, furnish the humane with an Example to be pointed to on future Occasions, that a Pardon sometimes conduces more than Punishment, to the interest of the Public as well as to that of the Individual.

And your Petitioners, as in Duty bound, &c.

Thos. Britton,	John Young,	James Loughhead,
Jno. Britton,	Rich'd Henshaw,	Silas Engles,
Will'm Allibone,	Wm. Sellers,	George Leib,
Wm. Craig,	Isaac Howell,	Peter Browne,
Wm. Moore,	Peter Knight,	Thos. Cuthbert,
Alex'r Henderson,	Paine Newman,	John Campbell,
Benj'n Rush,	Joseph Rush,	John Jones,
Jacob Rush,	Will'm Rush,	John Livingston,
Edw'd Ryves,	Wm. Allison,	Anthony Wilkinson,
John Rice,	Christ'n Pechin,	George Pickering,
John Young, jr.,	William Moulder,	Sam'l Howell,

Gunning Bedford,	Jas. Craig, junr.,	Sam'l Howell, jun.,
Jos. Cowperthwaite,	Nathaniel Browne,	Andrew Tybout,
Isaac Coats,	John Ewing,	George Sharswood,
Jacob S. Howell,	Wm. Hadge,	Capt. Jno. Osmon,
Isaac Snowden,	William Milnor,	Jno. Williams,
Fred. Phile,	George Bright,	James Ash,
John Biddle,	Jacob Bright,	Nath'l Falconer,
Step. Collins,	John Hall,	Jacob Weaver,
Will'm Thorne,	Lewis Farmer,	Andw. Hodge,
Geo. Glentworth,	Frederick Kuhl,	Francis Alison,
Benjamin G. Eyre,	Andrew Forsyth,	Capt. Wm. Allen,
Jas. Duncan,	Nicholas Hicks,	Capt. Daniel Rees,
Arch'd Gardner,	Wm. Coats, Col.,	Dan'l Udree.
William Semple,	Sam'l Morris,	
Henry Keppile,	Moses Bartram,	George Wescott,
Israel Cassell,	John Lawrence,	Henry Styles,
Wm. Atkinson,	John Dorsey, Jur.,	Daniel Drais,
Hezekiah Williams,	Thos. Nevell,	Peter Drais,
Jos. Watkins,	John Linton, Capt.,	John Barnhill,
David Schaffer,	Worsley Emea,	David Rees,
Barnabas Coulston,	George Heck,	Thom. Hughes,
Green Dorsey,	Jos. Ffox,	John Barker,
Josiah Matlack,	Robt. Wright,	Robert Parish,
Evan Evans,	Adam Zantzinger,	Leonard Dorsey,
Rauben Haiaes,	M'l Hillegas,	John Lisle,
Robert Evans,	Peter Thomson,	John Parrish, Junr.,
Fried. Shenkell,	John Germon,	John Wilcocks.
Jacob Graff, Junr.,		

MEMORIAL IN FAVOR OF ABR'M CARLISLE, 1778.

To the Hon'ble the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of sundry Persons, Inhabitants of the City & County of Philadelphia, in favor of Abraham Carlisle, now under Sentence of Death,

Respectfully Sheweth :

That, although in every civilized state the public safety requires the punishment of Treasons, & treasonable practices, yet as there may be certain circumstances, in which the Executive Power may exercise mercy, without endangering the State, we beg leave to address your Honours in favor of Abraham Carlisle, now under sentence of death.

When we recollect his former character & credit, and contrast them with his present deplorable condition, and the miseries that

hang over an innocent family, we feel emotions of compassion which we wish to communicate to those whose influence can alleviate or avert the Evil; And when we remember that "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy," and that this is the voice of Heaven, whose mercies towards this Country have been so eminent and conspicuous, we wish to merit the continuation thereof, by exercising moderation & forgiveness one towards another.

From these considerations, we are induced to request that you would consider the Prisoner as a suitable object of mercy, and as such recommend him to the the Legislature at the ensuing session; and your Petitions, as in duty bound, shall, &c.

Saml. Hudson,	John Steinmetz,	Peter Kuhn,
Whiteh'd Humphreys,	William Bell,	Rich'd Graham,
Robert Roberts,	Daniel Wister,	John Fromberger,
Adam Clampffer,	George Walker,	Step'n Chambers, C ^t
John Kerlin, jur.,	Balthazar Fleischer,	late 12 P. R.
Jno. Kerlin,	Rich'd Humphreys,	Samuel Correy,
Will'm Morgan,	George Nelson,	Friederick Schenkell,
Casparus Weiberg,	J'b Hitsheimer,	Jacob Graff, junr.,
John C. Kunze,	Jos. Howell,	Phillip Hall,
Geo. Morgan,	Wm. Jones,	Philip Odenheimer,
Henry Keppele, jr.,	Wm. Wister,	Thomas Darroch,
Jacob Barge,	Martin Pierie,	Abrah'm Boemper,
Jacob Graff, senr.,	Joseph Jones,	Wm. Ritchie,
Wm. Sheaff,	Abraham Kintzing,	Andrew Burkhardt,
Lewis Bitting,	Sam'l Howell,	Adam Foulk,
Charles Salt,	Jona'n Cowpland, C ^t	Jacob Keehmle.
Robert Porter,	Thos. Shoemaker,	

MEMORIAL IN FAVOR OF ABB'M CARLISLE, 1778.

To the Honorable the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of the Subscribers, Inhabitants of the City and County of Philadelphia, in Behalf of Abraham Carlisle, of the said City, now under Sentence of Death for High Treason,

Respectfully Sheweth:

That, altho' his conduct was such as rendered him an Object of the Justice of the Law of Treason, yet, from the Evidence on his Tryal it was tempered with such alleviating circumstances, as in the Opinion of the subscribers, render him a fit Object of the Mercy of the pardoning Power of the State; We, therefore, Pray the Honorable Supreme Executive Council will be pleased to suspend the Execution of the Sentence untill a meeting of the Assembly, whose mercifull interposition, we hope, will be graciously

extended in favor of the Life of a deluded Criminal, whose conduct, in all other respects, pleads for him ; and,

Your Petitionerr, as in duty bound, &c.

Blair M'Clenachan,	John Le Telier,	Samuel Dilworth,
Geo. Meade,	Richard Truman,	Robt. M'Crea,
John Pringle,	John Murdock,	Josh'a Humphreys,
Jno. Barclay,	Isaac Roach,	William Budden,
Sam'l C. Morris,	John Stamper,	William Marshall,
Wm. Cross,	Thos. Hopkins,	Benja. Wynkoop,
Jno. Taylor,	Charles Alexander,	Jo. Sims, jr.,
Th. Bond,	William Clifton,	William Lawrence,
Reese M'eredith,	Luke Morris,	Robt. Eastburn,
William White,	Joseph Williamson,	Will'm Tod,
Joseph Moulder,	Joseph Stamper,	Benj'n Humphreys,
Presley Blakiston,	Frans. Gurney,	Jonathan Beore,
John M'Neal,	Matth. Clarkson,	Edward Middleton,
Cad. Morris,	Gerard Clarkson,	Thomas Middleton,
George Spofford,	Ben. Gibbs,	Thos. Fitzsimmons,
Thos. Franklin,	David Pancoast,	Wm. West, junr.,
Arch'd M'Call,	Matt. Sadler,	Thos. Pryor,
Wm. Shute,	William Carter,	Wm. Richards,
Sam'l Penrose,	Thomas Elton,	John Duffield,
Jonathan Penrose,	Jno. Britton,	Walter Shée,
James Barnes,	Jesse Williamson,	Samuel Judah,
Joseph Rhoads,	Thomas Liming,	Stacy Hepburn,
Thos. Cadwalader,	Isaac Wood,	Townsend White,
John Cadwalader,	Wm. Mathews,	John Stille,
Sam'l Rhoads,	John Diamond,	Jas. Wharton,
Sharp Delany,	Abr'm Sturgis,	Will. Adcock,
John Galloway,	Robt. Fitzgerald,	Isaac Melcher,
Amos Strettell,	Jno. Sibbald,	Jacob Baker,
Jos. Morris,	Geo. Houston,	Ad'm Melcher,
Geo. Mifflin,	William Jackson,	Philip Heyle,
Rob. Tuckniss,	Andw. Miller,	Jacob Uttree,
Ar. Donaldson,	Thos. Irland,	Joseph Bullock,
Caleb Ash,	John Wharton,	John Helm, Lt.,
Allen Moore,	Charles Stedman,	Sam'l Hillegas,
J. Hazelwood, C.P.F.	A. Wilkinson,	Bertle Shée.
Samuel Read,		
James Searle,	Daniel Keen,	Joseph Lyndall,
Adrian Renaudet,	John Knowles,	Jno. Salter.
George Douglass,	Matthias Keen,	

* See preceding pages. See also Col. Rec., Vol. XI., pp. 603, 604, 607, 613, 614. Notwithstanding the foregoing strong and respectable Petitions of Judges, Juries and citizens, &c., the pardon or respite was not granted, and on the 4th Nov. the penalty of the law was inflicted upon both of the unfortunate men. The report of their trials will also be found in Dallas' Reports, Vol. I., p. 39, 42. See also Penn'a Packet, Nov. 7, 1778.

TRIAL OF JOHN ELWOOD, 1778.

Bucks County, ss.

Be it remembered, That at a Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery, held at Newtown, for the County of Bucks, the twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, before the Honorable Thomas McKean, Esquire, Chief Justice, and the Honorable William Augustus Atlee and John Evans, Esquires, Justices of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Justices of the same Commonwealth, assigned by Letters Patent of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth aforesaid, to inquire by the Oath and Affirmation of good and lawful Men of the County aforesaid, by whom the Truth of the Matter might be the better known of all Treasons, Murders, Burglaries, Rapes, Sodomies and such other Crimes, as by the Laws of the said Commonwealth are made Capital or Felonies of Death, and also of all other Misdemeanors, Injuries and Offences whatsoever, in the same County, done, had perpetrated or committed, and of all other Articles in the said Letters Patent of the said Supreme Executive Council, specified the Premises, and every or any of them howsoever concerning, and to hear and determine the said Treasons and other the premises, according to the Laws of the said Commonwealth; and also, to be Keepers of the Peace, and to deliver the Gaol of the said County of all the Prisoners in the same Gaol, being by the Oath of Henry Wynkoop, Joseph Sacket, Robert Patterson, Joshua Anderson, Andrew Long, Thomas Long, William M'Henry, and George Wicart, Esquires, and of Guliam Cornell, Gerardus Wynkoop, John Gill, Nicholas Patterson, John Crawford and William Roberts, and by the Solemn Affirmation of Timothy Taylor and Thomas Dyer, Esquires, and of Richard Ledom and Jones Ingham, good and lawful Men of the County aforesaid, then and there impannelled, sworn, affirmed, and charged to inquire for the said Commonwealth and the Body of the said County; It is presented, That John Elwood, late of the County of Bucks, Pilot, being an Inhabitant of and belonging to and residing within the State of Pennsylvania, and under the Protection of its Laws, and owing Allegiance to the same State, as a false Traitor against the same, not having the fear of God before his Eyes, but being moved and seduced by the Instigation of the Devil, the Fidelity which to the same State he owed, wholly withdrawing, and with all his Might intending the Peace and Tranquillity of this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to disturb, and War and Rebellion against the same to raise and move, and the Government and Independency thereof as by Law established, to subvert and to raise again, and restore the Government and Tyranny of the King of Great Britain within the same Commonwealth, on the first day of Janua-

ry, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, and at divers days and times, as well before as after, at the Borough of Bristol, in the County aforesaid, maliciously and traitorously, with a great number of Traitors and Rebels, (whose Names are as yet unknown to the Jurors) being armed and arrayed in a hostile manner, with force and arms, did falsely and traitorously assemble and join himself against this Commonwealth, and then and there with force and arms, did falsely and traitorously, and in a war-like and hostile Manner array and dispose himself against this Commonwealth, and then and there with force and arms, in Pursuance and Execution of such his wicked and traitorous Intentions and purposes aforesaid, did falsely and traitorously prepare, order, wage, and levy a public and cruel war against this Commonwealth, then and there committing and perpetrating a miserable and cruel slaughter of, and amongst the faithful and Liege Subjects and Inhabitants thereof, and then and there did with force and arms, falsely and traitorously aid and assist the King of Great Britain, being an Enemy at open War against this State, by joining his armies, to wit., his army under the Command of Gen. Sir Wm. Howe, then actually invading this State, & by piloting the Fleet of the said King and guiding the army aforesaid, and then and there maliciously and traitorously, (with divers other Traitors to the Jurors unknown) with force and arms did combine, plot and conspire to betray this State, and the United States of America, into the Hands and Power of the King of Great Britain, being an Enemy at open War against the same; and then and there did with force and arms, maliciously and traitorously give and send Intelligence to the same Enemies for that purpose, against the Duty of his Allegiance, against the form of the Act of Assembly in such Case made and provided, and against the Peace and Dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—Whereupon, the Sheriff of the County of Bucks is commanded, that he take the said John Elwood, if he may be found in his Bailiwick, and him safely keep, to answer to the Treason whereof he stands indicted; and afterwards, to wit, at the same Delivery of the Gaol of the County aforesaid, on the twenty sixth day of October, in the year aforesaid, before the said Justices, here cometh the said John Elwood, under the custody of John Thompson, Esquire, Sheriff of the County aforesaid, (in whose Custody in the Gaol of the County aforesaid, for the Cause aforesaid, he had been before committed,) being brought to the Bar here, in his proper person by the said Sheriff, to whom he is here also committed and forthwith being demanded concerning the premises in the said Indictment above specified, and charged upon him how he will acquit himself thereof, he saith he is not guilty thereof, and thereof for Good and Evil he puts himself upon the Country, and Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, Esquire, who prosecutes for the Commonwealth aforesaid, in this Behalf doth the like, wherefore let a Jury thereupon here immediately come before the said Justices, of free and lawful men of the said County, by

whom the Truth of the Matter may be the better known, and who are of no Affinity to the said John Elwood, to recognize upon their Oath and Affirmation, whether the said John Elwood be guilty of the Treason in the Indictment aforesaid above specified, or not guilty, because, as well the said Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, who prosecutes for the Commonwealth aforesaid in this Behalf, as the said John Elwood have put themselves upon the said Jury; and the Jurors of the said Jury, by the said Sheriff for this purpose impanelled and returned, to wit, Benjamin Snodgrass, Derrick Hogeland; Gilliam Cornell, junior, Joshua Dungan, Thomas Folwell, Elias Dungan, John Vanborn, farmer, Francis Titus, John Johnson, Jacob Bennett, Daniel Lerue and Joseph Vanpelt, being called, come, who being elected, tried, sworn and affirmed, to speak the Truth of and concerning the Premises, upon their Oath and Affirmation, respectively do say, that the said John Elwood is guilty of the Treason aforesaid, on him above charged in the form aforesaid, as by the Indictment aforesaid is above supposed against him, and that the said John Elwood, at the Time of committing the said Treason, or at any time since to this time had not, nor hath any Goods or Chattels, Lands or Tenements, in the said County of Bucks, or elsewhere, to the knowledge of the said Jurors; and upon this it is demanded of the said John Elwood, if he hath or knoweth any Thing to say, wherefore the said Justices ought not, upon the premises, to proceed to Judgment against him, who nothing further saith, unless as he before had said; Whereupon, all and singular the premises being seen, and by the Court here fully understood, It is considered by the Court here that the said John Elwood be hanged by the Neck till he be dead.

A true Transcript of the Record.

EDW. BURD, Cl. Cur.*

COUNCIL TO SIEUR. GERARD, 1778.

In Council,

Philadelphia, October 28d, 1778.

Sr,

I have been honoured with your favour of the 17th instant.

Agreeable to your requisition made to the Congress, Mr. Straker is now confined in the New Gaol of this city, and under the disposal of your Honour, as Minister Plenipotentiary of His Most Christian

* See Col. Records, Vol. XI., p. 624, when he was sentenced to be hanged on 2d Dec. He was reprieved on 30th Nov., (there being some doubts of his sanity) till 2d January. He was on the 31st Dec. further reprieved for 60 days, which is the last notice we have found in the Records. See pp. 631, 663, Vol. XI.

Majesty. A real indisposition, I am informed, has prevented his being sooner committed.

The duty which I owe to a citizen of the State of Pennsylvania, obliges me to trouble you again with an application for his discharge. The state of Mr. Straker's health is such, as makes confinement dangerous to him.

The Council, in this application, wish to be understood to pay all due respect to the publick character, which you bear, and every mark of politeness and attention to you. I impute any impropriety in the behaviour of Mr. Straker, in his application to you to his want of information, in a case which is entirely new in this country, and not to a designed disrespect. The consideration of his own interest and conveniency must have prevented such design.

I am, Sir, with the greatest respect,

Your honours most obedient

and very humble servant,

G. B., V. P.

The Honourable Sieur Gerard,

Minister Plenipotentiary of His Most Christian Majesty.

MONSIEUR GERARD TO COUNCIL, 1778.

A Philadelphie, le 24 8bre, 1778.

Monsieur,

J'ai reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire en date du 28 de ce mois en réponse à la lettre du 17.*

J'y vois que William Straker est en prison, mais Vous ne me faites pas l'honneur de me parler des deux nègres esclaves qui sont également compris dans ma réquisition au Congrès. Cette seconde condition n'est pas moins nécessaire que la première, et ce ne sera que quand elle aura été exécutée que je pourrai m'expliquer sur le fond de la matière et vous donner, Monsieur, ainsi qu'au Conseil de l'Etat, des preuves de mon attachement, de mes égards, et de ma déférence.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec les sentimens les plus respectueux,

Monsieur,

Votre très humble et très

obéissant Serviteur,

GERARD.

Mr. Bryant, Vice Président de l'Etat de Pensylvanie.

* See page 17, 61.

MAJOR WESTBROOK TO COL. JACOB STROUD.

Dear Sir,

I send you the affidavits of Two persons which has had the opportunity of Conversing with some of the Party that was with Brant in Doing the Mischief at Peainpack, and to my sorrow I acquaint you it has struck the People in General with such fear that they are a moving away from the upper End of the minesink very fast. If there is Not some means Taken To Stop the Enemy the whole of the Inhabitation will move from this Place, and, if so, pray what will be the Consequence? Ruin and destruction will immediately follow.

I am Sir,

Your Humble Serv^t,

SAML. WESTBROOK, Major.

Sandiston, Oct. 24, 1778.

To Col. Jacob Stroud.

COLONEL JACOB STROUD TO COUNCIL, 1778.

Fort Penn, October the 25th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I heare send with the Bearer the Copey of Two Mens Oathes, and by other circumstances as we can fully Learn, That the Indeons and Toreys are gon up to Coshiehton with their Plunder, and Expect there to get more Reinforcements, and to be Down immediately on us; perhaps when you see the oathes of these people that was sworn at Minesink, you may not fully persieve why These Toreys that is there spoke of stays in them woods, but I will Relate a little fuller: a great part of these Toreys that has been seen there is persons that has there wives and fameleys and Relations, and indeed Correspondance in the settlement, and I am apprehensive That the Councyl and your Honour Dos not persieve how this settlement and Wyoming Lyes, as Wyoming can be of no service to us as a frunteer from the Indeons and Toreys from Cosishton and Cook house, and That Quarter, if you will please to Take the map and Look in that there, you may see that Wyoming with a small party, hardly able to keep That fort can be of any Safety to us from up Delawar, as these Indeons That we feare will fall on us will come down Delawar River with Onowes down to the mouth of Mahaughkamack Crick, which is just above Our settlement, as they did Last; or perhaps they may Come a little Lower, as they may find Convenient, as I know of nothing to prevent them; for I assure you there is very few people Left above Manuel Gonsaleses mill, which is 12 miles from My house, and Back of me, between me and the great swamp. There is no settlement, but the bare woods, now if it Can be thought Best not to have the frunteer heare, I could wish the Councyl in their wisdom would point out the place. Indeons is not like our other

Ennemys, that wee can live with them and abought them, but whare they have there Camp for they Distroy all; and as for the other acc^t that wee sent with Esq^r Vancamp, the oath of that woman, the Indeons came neer the time she spoke of, and had it not been for the high weatters, they would have done muuh more Mischief, for there was nothing to hinder them, for it was Two Days after they was gon before the Malitia could be collected all; so I must Leave the Matter with you and the Councyl. Hoping you will do at this Distressing time something for us, and to give us Relief, as wee have our Eyes on you, as wee have no other place to apply to for Relief.

I am, Sir, your very umble serv^t,

JACOB STROUD.

GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE TO ASSEMBLY, 1778.

State of New York
Camp near Fredericksburg, 26th Oct., 1778.

Sir,

I have taken the Liberty to Enclose a Return of the strength & Condition of the Eight Penns^a Regiments under my Command, together with Letters from two Recruiting Officers to Col^e Rich^d Butler, Complaining of the want of Money to facilitate the necessary service upon which they were sent.

The Honorable House will be Convinced by the Returns, that these Regiments are far short of their Complement of men; the first Brigade being 818 Deficient, & the second 950.

The other States are Completing their Regiments with great Rapidity in pursuance of a late Resolve of Congress, Impowering His Excellency Genl. Washington, to furnish the Officers of the Respective States, with Money sufficient for the purpose of Reinlisting all their Drafts or substitutes for three years, or During the War.

I here beg leave to Remind the Hon^{ble} House that early last spring Congress Recommended to the several States to use every possible exertion to Complete their Quota of men by Draughts or Substitutes for nine months, or during the Campaign; this was done in every State except Penns^a, who by a Liberal Bounty expected to have furnished their Quota for the War, but the particular situation that we were then in, from the Enemy being in possession of our Capital, added to the appearance of an Indian War on our frontiers, prevented us from meeting with that success in Recruiting that we otherwise had reason to expect.

These Difficulties being now in a great measure Removed, I have not the least Doubt but by the Countenance and Direction of your Honourable House, we shall with great facility Complete our Quota of men, and once more assume that Rank & maintain that Consequence among the Other States, which from our Wealth, Numbers, & former services, we are Entitled to hold.

I have Detatched one or more Officers from each Regiment on the Recruiting Service—they have been some time on that duty—will the Honorable House please to give them such Instructions as they may think most likely to facilitate that Essential business.

Please to present my most Respectful Compliments to the House, and assure them that I shall Esteem myself highly Honored by their Commands, & that I shall always be Ready to serve them with the best Service of their & your

Most Ob't and very Hum'l Ser't,

ANT^y WAYNE, B. G.,

Comm^r the Penn^a Line.

Directed.—The Speaker of the Hon^{ble} House of Assembly of the State of Penn^a.

WM. THOMPSON TO COL. RICHARD BUTLER, 1778.

Philadelphia, October 5th, 1778.

Dear Col.,

I am sorry that it is in my Power to Inform you that the Council has Refused money for the Recruiting Service, on account, as they say the have raised their Quota of Troops. I have acquainted the Council of the strength of the Pennsylv^a Line, which is far short of their Quota, but I fear to no service, as they again hinted that the war wold be shortly finished, and there was no need for throwing the State to farther Expences; I wish it may be the case. I farther acquainted them, that in the arangement of the army there was no men transferd to your Reg^t; they seemed to think that they were Inclined to advance more money for the purpose of filling the same, but has Given no money as yet. I have borrowed to the amount of 700 Dollars to Carry on the Recruiting Service since I have been in town, but now cannot Proceed any farther for want of money—Sixteen fine young men I have refused for want of money, but not without acquenting the Council, there answer was that they had not money at that time or they wold supply me with it. I am of the oppenion that if the Col. wold right to Council concerning the matter, that the Council would advance money so far as to make your Reg^t eaqel with others. Sir, I sent you 14 recruits in Care with Capt Lang, Lt Swyler, Lt Ashton, which I hope will meet with your approbation; four more I have in town. Capt. Pearson & I wates your further orders.

Sir, I am your most obedient

and Humble Serv^t,

WM. THOMPSON.

P. S. Sir, please to give my Compliments to Col. North, Major Nichols, and all the Gentlemen officers.

Directed.—For Col. Rich'd Butler, 9th Pennsylv^a Reg^t at Head Quarters. ☞ favor Capt. Humphreys.

RETURN OF THE 2ND PENNSYLVANIA BRIGADE OF

Regiments.		Officers Present.										Fit for Duty.				
State.	Colonels Names.	Field.		Commis'd.			Staff.					Non Commissioned.				
		Colonels.	Lieutenant Colonels.	Major.	Captains.	First Lieutenants.	Second Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Captains.	Adjutant.	Pay Master.	Quartermaster.	Sergeant.	Major.	Quartermaster.	Sergeant.
Penn'a.	8 Tho's Craig,	1	1		2	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	5 Fran's Johnston,	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	6 Josh. Harmar,		1	1	2	3	2	2		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	7 Rich'd Butler.		1	1	2	1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total.		2	1	3	10	7	2	7	2	4	4	1	4	2	4	4
Sick Present,																
Sick Absent,																
On Furlough,			1		4	2					1					1
Recruiting,					5	3			1							1
Vacant,																
On Command,			1	1	1	3					1		1			
Doing detached duty,					2	5	4									
Prisoners on Parole.			1		1	1										
Total,		2	2		18	14	4		1		2		1			2

FOOT, COMMANDED BY FRA'S JOHNSTON, ESQ., COL.

Rank and File.						Wanting to complete.		Alterations since last Return.								
Present fit for Duty.	Sick Present.	Sick Absent.	On Command.	On Furlough.	Total.	Sergeants.	Drum'm's & Fifers.	Rank & File.	Dead.	Discharged.	Deserted.	Sent to Invalids.	Joined			
													Sergeants.	Drum'm's & Fifers.	Rank & File.	Sergeants.
202	25	56	72	6	361			143	1			1			1	10
172	18	36	51	2	279			225	2			1				2
167	7	19	32	2	227			277			1					1
117	25	25	31	1	199			305								
658	75	136	186	11	1066			950	3		1	2			1	18
Quakerhill,						11	5	His Ex'cys Guard,								
Fishkill,						25	28	Cor's late Morgans,								
Gen. Hosp'l,						3	69	Light Infantry,								
Valley Forge,						8	1	Bullock Guard,								
Princeton,						7	29	Waggoners,								
Kings Ferry,						1	6	Surveying,								
Kingstown,						1	1	At the lines,								
Qr. Meet'g H's,						1	8	Gen'l Officers,								
Lancaster,						8	1	Cap' Chambers,								
Red Lion,						1	1	Com' Generals,								
Flying Hoss,						6	3	Peeks Kill,								
Bethlehem,						3	5	Cloath' Gen'l,								
Carlisle,						1	2	Weeks Command,								
Philadelphia,						5	1	Doing duty Camp,								
French Creek,						14	2	Baking,								
Peeks Kill,						2	5	Recruiting,								
Morristown,						1	1	Hackensack,								
Black River,						1	1	Col. Frazier's,								
Reading,						3	1	Wait' French Cree ^t ,								
Uncertain,						2	1	Col. Johnston's,								
Yellow Spring,						15	1	Butcher,								
Danbury,						5	3	Fishkill,								
Trenton,						5	1	Taylor,								
East town,						2	1	Valley Forge,								
Lightfoot,						1	2	Potagrove,								
Morristown,						1	1	Col. Nagle,								
Shafers Town,						1	2	Com' Gen'l Guard,								
Bucks County,						1	2	Armourer,								
Rocky Hill,						1	1	Uncertain,								
							2	Wright's Stores.								
						136	186									

FRA'S JOHNSTON,
Col. Comm'g 2nd
P. Brigade.

FRA'S JOHNSTON,
Col. Comm'g 2nd
P. Brigade.

A RETURN OF THE PENNSYLVANIA BRIGADE OF FOOT,

REGIMENTS.				OFFICERS PRESENT.												Non							
				Field.		Commis'd.				Staff.				Commis'd,									
COLONELS NAMES.				Colonels.	Lieutenant Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	2nd Lieutenants.	Second Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Chaplains.	Regiment Major.	Adjutants.	Pay Master.	Quarter Master.	Sergeant.	Major.	Sergeant Major.	Quarter Master Sergeant.	Drum Major.	File Major.	Sergeants.	Drums & Fids.
1	Chambers.					1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	10
2	Stewart.	1				1	1	3	3	2			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	21	17
7	Irvin.						1	1	2	3			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	7
10	Hampton.						1	1	3	5			1				1	1	1			15	16
Total.				1	2	4	9	13	7	1	1	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	6	50	
Sick Present.					1			2	1	2												5	2
Sick Absent.								1	2	1	1											8	1
On Furlough.				2	1			1	2	1				1				1	1			1	
Recruiting.								5	7	1	3				1							14	5
On Command.				1				4	4	1	1											7	
As Pay Master.								2															
As Adjutants.									1	1	1												
As Quarter Masters,									1	1	1												
Prisoners of War.								1	1														
Surveying.									1														
Arrested.										1													
On Parole.									1														
Total.				4	4	4	25	34	16	7	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	9	58	

COMM'D BY COL. WALTER STEWART, ESQR., OCT. 24, 1778.

Rank & File.						Wanting to Compleate.		Alterations since last.								
Present for Duty.	Sick Present.	Sick Absent.	On Command.	On Furlough.	Total.	Sergeants.	Drummers & Fiddlers.	Rank and File.	Dead.	Discharged.	Deserted.	Sent to the Corps of Invalids.	Promoted.	Prisoners of War.	Joined.	
															Sergeants.	Rank and File.
154	17	15	82	6	274	4	9	230								1
280	48	24	67		419	2		85								1
135	16	9	33	1	194	10	6	310	1	1						
184	14	30	83	5	316	3		188	1		4			1		1
753	95	78	265	12	1203	19	15	813	2	2	4			1		3

HENRY McCORMICK, M. B.

WALTER STEWART,

Colonel Commandant.

JOHN PEARSON TO ———, 1778.

Philad'a, 6th October, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I am very sorry I am obliged to stop the Important Business I was sent upon, in procuring men for the Regt. I have this Day applied to Counsell for money, Mr. Matlack tells me he will have nothing to due in the matter in either giving me money or settling my account. I then applied to Col. Nogg, one of the members, after laying my account before the Board for several Day—he give me this answer, that he could not procure me an Order for money, & that it was Needless for me to Wait upon the Council any more. Mr. Matlack told me if he had the Regulation of the matter he would Order every one of the Recruiting Officers to Camp Emedately & not give them a farthing of money, which I thought verry odd—men are cumming dayly to me to Enlist & am obliged to refuse them, merely for the Love of the Service & the Benefit of the Regt. I whent and borrowed one hundred pounds to pay five fine fellow, who came to me to offer their servis, & no cant git a farthing of it, and am obliged to Keep my friend out of his money till I can by some means have my Recruiting account settled. God knows oure Expence here is verry great, let alone Keeping us doing of nothing. As I am confident you are sensible of the Expence that we are at, I need not mention it to you. Lieut Henery Becker, that Col. North ordered to call on me for my Recruits is not come to town yet, but Is expected every day, & as soon as he comes I shall Dispatch him of with them Emedately. I have Lost a good many men for the whant of money to pay them of, according to promise. After passing them the Muster Master, there remaining Sixty Dollars Ordered to be giving by my instructing, which has giving me great uneasiness. I need not Enlarge any further on this subject, but shall wait your answer.

Remaining your to Command,

JOHN PEARSON.

COUNCIL TO MONS. GERARD, 1778.

In Council,

Philadelphia, October 27, 1778.

Sir,

I have the honour of your favour of the 24th instant,* and have made enquiry concerning the negroes mentioned as having been demanded by you of Congress, to be committed to Goal and subjected to your disposal.

* See page 62.

It appears that one of them, a negro Girl, is committed to Goal, the other, a negro man, the Commissary of Prisoners has not been able to find. Mr. Straker has been called upon, and he represents that the said negro man was not, at the time of his elopement, in the possession of Mr. Straker, and he has given to me the strongest assurance that he does not know where the said negro man is, or any thing concerning his concealment; on the contrary, he offers his utmost assistance in making enquiry after, securing and delivering him into the disposal of your honour. From this representation, it seems that Mr. Straker ought not to be detained, in consequence of the absence of the Slave in question.

The state of Mr. Straker's health induces me again to request that your honour will not delay to determine on his case, longer than is absolutely necessary.

The Hⁿble the Sieur Gerard, Minister

Plenipotentiary of His Most Christian Majesty.

WM. STRAKER TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Sir,

I find from my Br, Mr. James Budden, that Mons^r Gerard requires the negro, who went away, shou'd be returned before we can have a final answer. I must beg the Liberty to inform your honor that the negro in question was deliver'd with the rest to Mons^r Gerard; that some time past he came and inform'd me, that one of the white servants had beat & used him ill, & I found would have made many pretences to have continued in my family, but knowing too well the consequences of such a proceeding against public authority, & still hoping to be consider'd as a resident & having my property restored, I order'd him immediately to return to Mons^r Gerrard; he promis'd to obey every thing I directed, but find, instead of which, he has absented himself ever since. I have offer'd my honor, & every thing that was sacred, that I know nothing of the negro, but as I find that Inafectual, have enclosed my own deposition, with that of several of my family, that we know not the time or place where he is secreted, that we will use every measure in our power to discover him, & should we be happy enough to succeed, will immediately deliver him up to the Sieur Gerrard. As I am extremely unwell, & fearing lest my illness should increase and render me incapable of addressing your honor again on the subject, you'l give me leave, thro' this Channel, to speak the sentiments of a man who finds himself extremely hurt by many misrepresentations made to the Minister much to his prejudice. It is not natural, from his general character, to treat any person with rigour, his humanity & lenity is

given equal to his power—therefore, cannot help thinking myself unhappy in being held in such an unfavourable light by him, without the hope of acquitting myself of any imputation against me. Your honour will excuse my trespassing so long on your time, & believe me to be, with much respect,

Y^r honor's most obedient &
very humble servant,

WM. STRAKER.

New Goal, October 30th, 1778.

Directed,

The Hon'ble George Bryan, Vice President.

WM. STRAKER TO ———, 1778.

Sir,

From the Information read of my Br, Mr. James Budden, the two negroes seem, as a matter in question by Monsieur Gerrard, I can only assure of one being in Goal; the other, a man servant, on the veracity of a man of honor, I know nothing of, neither does any of the family as far as I know—however, you may rest assur'd that every means shall be used to gain intelligence, & if we can receive any accounts of him, so as to give us an opportunity of taking him, you may depend on our exertion in the Capture, & he shall be delivered up to the disposal of the Sieur Gerrard.

I am, with respect,

Y^r honor's very humble Serv^t,

WM. STRAKER.

New Goal, Oct^r 26, 1778.

MEMORIAL OF JUSTICES OF NORTHUMBERLAND, 1778.

To his Excellency the President, or in his absence, the Hon^l the Vice President and Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Memorial of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Northumberland, in Court of General Quarter Sessions, met on Tuesday, 25th day of August, 1778,

Sheweth, that the business of this County is much impeded for want of an Attorney to prosecute for the Commonwealth,

That this being the second Court at which no State Attorney appeared, many persons have been admitted to Bail who ought to have been tried, the Magistrates thinking it imprudent to confine them at the expence of the County, until there is a probability of Prosecution;

That the long suspension of justice in this County, from February, 1776, to November, 1777, had rendered the People licentious enough, and a further delay of executing the laws, must lead them to lengths perhaps too difficult to be recalled;

That even Tippling houses, the notorious promoters of vice and immorality, and audacious opponents to law and order remain unpunished, though frequently returned to Court for want of Indictment;

That there are two Prisoners now in this County for Murder, the one admitted to Bail, the other in close confinement, who, we apprehend, should be brought to trial.

Your memorialists, therefore, pray your Honours serious attention to the premises, and such relief as to your wisdom shall seem fit.

Signed by Order of the Court,

THOMOND BALL, D. Pro'y.

MERIWETHER SMITH AND R. H. LEE TO V. P. BRYAN,
1778.

Philadelphia, Nov^r 1st, 1778.

Sir,

The subject of the inclosed Letter* we conceive commands your serious attention, and we flatter ourselves that we need not suggest to you the propriety of taking some immediate step, in conjunction with the Governor of Virginia, to restore the Harmony of the States of Virginia & Pennsylvania, or at least to prevent the consequences likely to ensue from this occasion.

We hope that all Disputes of this nature may be amicably settled by you & the Governor of Virginia, and that it will be unnecessary to trouble Congress upon this subject; with this view we shall write to the Governor of Virginia, giving him an account of the Information we have rec^d, & of our proceedings thereon.

We have the Honor to be

Your Excellency's

Most obed^t Servants,

MERIWETHER SMITH,
RICHARD HENRY LEE.

Directed,

His Excellency George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President of the Council, Pennsylvania.

* Not found.

CAPT. JOHN NEILSON TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1778.

Mountbethel, Northampton County,
Nov'r the 2d, 1778.

Gentlemen,

I Beg leave to inform you that a part of my Company, at the time the Militia Law took place, was seperated from me, and hath not Regularly joind any Battalion which arose from my Company, haveing to join a Battalion which they did not formerly belong to, which caus'd a great Disturbance.

To pacify the people, the Lieutenants of the County allowed the Company to Divide into two, & each part to have Officers, which accordingly was chosen, and the Officers of the Company which left me was never Commissioned, and they have still been exempted from taking their Towr of Duty in the Militia, which Greatly Dissatisfys and Dispirits my Company, who always have been forward in Defence of their Country.

I beg Council would take it under Consideration, and direct proper means that it may be Ratified.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your friend &

humble Servant,

JOHN NEILSON, Capt.

To the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Directed,

To George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President of the State of Pennsylvania.

ROBERT GALBRAITH TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1778.

To his Excellency, the President of the Supreme Executive Council.

May it please your Excellency, the situation of my affairs is such, that I find it exceedingly inconvenient to hold the offices which I had the honour of being appointed to, in the County of Bedford, any longer, having removed to York Town, where I now reside.

I therefore beg leave to resign, and do hereby resign the offices of Prothonotary, Clerk of the Peace, Clerk of the Orphan's Court, Recorder of Deeds and Register for the Probate of Wills, &c., as

also the Commission of the Peace which I hold in and for the county of Bedford, and pray that this may be accepted of as a resignation.

I am with the greatest

respect, your Excellency's,

and the Honourable Councils

most obedient humble servant,

ROBERT GALBRAITH.

York Town, November 4th, 1778.

PH. SCHUYLER TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, 1778.

Albany, Nov. 2, 1778.

Sir,

I am just now honored with your obliging favor of the 17 ult., for which I return you many thanks.

The inclosed is a copy of a Letter I yesterday received from Mr. Deane.

I have the honor to be

with great respect & esteem,

Sir, your most ob. hb. Serv^t,

PH. SCHUYLER.

Directed,

His Excell^y H. Laurens, Esq., Pres^t of Congress.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1778.

In Congress, 5 Nov^r, 1778.

Resolved,

That the three companies commanded by Cpt^r Cluggage, Black, & M^cDonald, raised for the defence of the frontiers of Pennsylvania be reinlisted & compleated to their full complement for the space of one year from the 15th day of December next unless sooner discharged by Congress.

That every non commissioned officer & private enlisting in the said companies receive as a bounty a suit of cloaths to consist of the articles usually allowed the continental troops, & that it be stipulated with the said non commissioned officers & privates so enlisting that

they shall not be removed from the frontiers of the said State on any account whatsoever, except on expeditions against the Indians.

Extract from the minutes,

BELCHER P. SMITH, for
CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

MARINE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Marine Committee,

Philad^a Novem^r 7th, 1778,

Gentlemen,

The Minister of France having applied to this Committee for the use of a small Vessel to precede the French frigate Chemere down the Bay of Delaware for the purpose of reconnoitering; and as it is not in our power to furnish a suitable Vessel, we request the favour that you would order the State Sloop commanded by Captain Wade,* to go on this service when required, of which we shall give him notice.

We shall pay any expences that may arise during the time we have the loan of the Sloop, and shall thankfully acknowledge the favour.

We have the honor to be

Gent^s, your most obed. Serv^{ts},

By order of the Committee,

S. ADAMS.

Directed,

The Honorable the Vice President & Council of Pennsylvania.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1778.

In Congress, 7 Nov^r, 1778.

The committee to whom were referred the letter of David Franks to Moses Franks, &c., brought in a report, whereupon.

Resolved,

That the letter of David Franks of the 18th day of October last, & the proceedings of Congress thereon, be transmitted to the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, & that he be no longer considered as a prisoner of the United States.

Extract from the minutes,

BEL^r P. SMITH, for
CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 619.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Nov^r 7th, 1778.S^r,

I am informed by Col. Bradford that the time for which the 7th class of Militia was called out expires next Saturday; I request you will apply to the Hon. Council for an order to call out another class that it may be ready to do duty by that time.

I am S^r, yourmost obed^t Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

COUNCIL TO ASSEMBLY, 1778.

In Council,

Philadelphia, Nov. 9, 1778.*

Gentlemen,

We take this early opportunity of congratulating you on the prospect of the approaching abandon of the City of New York, & perhaps, the Territory of the United States, by the Land Tories, of a cruel Enemy, desponding of success in their mighty attempt to enslave us. Highly favoured by the great disposer of human affairs, the Americans have, after a struggle comparatively short, established their Liberty & independence. The Swiss & Low Dutch long endured the evils of War, & had much severer conflicts with their oppressors. But no people in any case ever had clearer reason to ascribe all their salvation to God alone than we have; not to our own efforts, for we were feeble and unskilled; not to our riches or revenues, for we were poor and unprovided; not to early & great aid from abroad, for the Enemy was exhausted in their resources; one great army reduced to surrender, & the other ready to retire, before any ally appeared. It is solely to the interposition of the most high, who disposeth of the Kingdoms of this world as he pleaseth, that all our success must be ascribed. May all the victory and all the honor thereof, be thankfully given to him by the Beneficiaries of his goodness.

Among the various Benefits arising from this decline of the Enemys strength, the states lately invaded, and this state in particular, will be immediately relieved, as to the march of their militia, so distressing to husbandry & manufactures; for the chastisement of the perfidious savages will now be the easy and proper employ of the federal Troops.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 618.

With this Message you have three Acts of Congress. The first of the 2d of October last, recommends a continuation of the Embargo on provisions layed by the late Assembly, with the grant of powers of a summary and extraordinary nature for seizing for the supply of the French army & the French fleet, Grain & flour forestalled, & pointing out some additional cautions proper to prevent frauds in supplying the Eastern states, recommended by a former act of the 5th of Sept. last, among the papers of y^r house.

On this, Council would observe, that a prolongation of the Embargo, which expires on the 25th Instant, would probably attain the ends proposed by the authorities asked; authorities of so high a nature, that if constitutional, the present situation of affairs will not warrant. The supply of the Eastern states & of the sea & Land forces there ought, we suppose, to be gotten from the Bay of Chesapeake. Exhausted as we are, the main federal Army cannot depend on the Middle States for its sustenance. The late Assembly, therefore, made no relaxation in favor of New England. On the contrary, perhaps, it may be expedient to prohibit the distilling of all sorts of Corn for six months, to prevent inconvenience.

On Enquiry it does not appear that the 2d Act of Congress, which is of the 5th of October last, concerning bills of Credit emitted under the Crown, of B. has any reference to this state. Yet, as it brings the old paper money into view, occasion is given to say that it deserves consideration, whether the Act of the late Assembly stopping the circulation of those bills, tho' highly necessary to prevent the depraving of the Congress bills, & to hinder the progress of fraud, was sufficiently published to justify the taking advantage of the omission of the possessors in not bringing them in to the Treasurer at or before the day prefixed; especially as only £22,000 of them have been brought in.

The 3d Act of this honourable Body earnestly recommends to you the suppression of Theatrical Entertainments, horse-racing, gaming, & other diversions, which are commonly productive of Idleness, dissipation & a general depravity of principles & manners. In this view the late Assembly published a bill for consideration. Without doubt you will make suitable regulations on this important subject.

After referring to our Message to the late Assembly, dated the 7th day of August last, for divers matters, which need not be repeated now, we take the Liberty of recollecting to your honourable House the necessity of providing a Tribunal of Appeals from the Courts of Law, mentioned last spring to the late Assembly. Perhaps nothing under the late Government was a more express badge of Slavery, than the necessity which the good people of this, & the other confederate States were under to cross the Atlantic Ocean, & seek for precarious justice at a vast expence in Europe. But the Court of the King, in Council, being now dissolved, a new Jurisdiction to decide in complaints of Error in judgment at Common Law, is indispensable. Without it, our system of jurisprudence is

defective, & right cannot be obtained. The same Judges might also revise decrees not in prize causes in the Admiralty. Some persons have proposed to establish these authorities in our Board; but as it would mix the Judicial with the political executive, & contradict the Spirit of the Constitution, & the best authorities on government, we wish it may be avoided, observing to you that the members of Council, ought not to be supposed competent to discussions merely legal, & that the stream of Justice ought to be kept clear & steady, tho' it cost some public money. As the business of this nature will probably be small, the appointments may be proportionable. We have been lately informed, that the Auditors of Accounts, appointed by an Act of the last sitting of Assembly, decline acting, it is therefore proper that you name others.

The late Assembly was furnished with heads of a bill for manumitting infant negroes, born of Slaves, by which the gradual abolition of Servitude for life would be obtained, in an easy mode. It is not proposed that the present Slaves, most of whom are scarcely competent of freedom should be meddled with, but all importation must be forbid if the Idea be adopted. This or some better scheme would tend to abrogate Slavery, the opprobrium of America, from among us, and no period seems more happy for the attempt than the present, as the number of such unhappy characters, ever few in Pennsylvania, has been much reduced by the practices & plunder of our late invaders. In divesting the State of Slaves you will equally serve the cause of humanity & policy, & offer to God one of the most proper & best returns of Gratitude for his great deliverance of us & our posterity from Thralldom. You will also set y^r character for Justice & Benevolence in a true point of view to all Europe, who are astonished to see a people eager for Liberty holding Negroes in Bondage.

We feel ourselves under some constraint to say, that the present mode of Issuing marriage Licences is very liable to abuse, & as the Laws on that subject now Stand, especially as they were interpreted not long since in a Court of justice, all the cautions on them are become nugatory. The peace of families, & the public good are so nearly connected with the matrimonial contracts of minors, that we doubt not of your interposition. Novel or Severe restraints on wedlock in a State circumstanced as ours are not wished for, but prudential precautions seem necessary.

It is greatly to be desired, that the differences between Connecticut & this State on the one hand, & between Virginia & us on the other side, could be brought to a settlement. New inconveniences & difficulties arise upon delay. No answer from Williamburgh is yet come to the proposal made in June, 1777, to refer the variance, with the latter, to Congress. In the mean time, a Letter herewith sent in from John Campbell, Esquire, an agent of Virginia, at Pittsburg, dated the 16th of October past, will shew you that the Settlers in Westmoreland are distracted, & the common cause injured by this

jangling, tho' we are far from thinking that facts are fairly stated by the writer. Council have desired Col. Lochrie to furnish information on this head.

Supposing that the Committee of Accounts appointed by the late House of Representatives, have layed their adjustments & Transactions before you, it is the less necessary for us to be particular on that subject. If you find the Issues of money for recruiting the Battalions of this State in the federal Army, large, we have the satisfaction to tell you that the Quota of this State of Soldiers enlisted for the War (and we have none other,) is kept up as well as by any of the States in union. But this service, the redemption of the old paper money, & various expenditures peculiar to a time of war, have drained the Treasury. This obliges us to drop further enlistments, to discontinue the manufactory of Arms, & other businesses which do not now press on us as heretofore. A renewal of the defences of the Delaware seemed indispensable, and therefore some heavy cannon have been mounted at Billings-port, & a Small Battery is finishing at Mud-Island. These, with 3 of the Gallies, were judged to be sufficient to guard the Chevaux de frize and to repel any insult which may be offered by a few frigates. To baffle attempts of the Enemy, on a larger scale, our means were unequal. Letters have just been sent to the Lieu^{ts} of the Counties, directing them to remit to the State Treasurer all Militia fines within their Reach without delay. It is Supposed that considerable Sums remain with some of these Gentlemen.

The Tax of five Shillings in the pound ordered by Act of the late Assembly has been layed & partly collected in most of the Counties. Westmoreland, Bedford & Northumberland have been, perhaps, too much disturbed by the distress of the War to admit the levying of money. Philadelphia has just attained sufficient order to begin the assessment. Some of the Counties have assessed their Quotas of the Tax of 620,000 Dollars for the Continental Service. The Treasurer will be able to furnish the actual payments on these branches of revenue. After these Taxes shall be compleated, there will remain no provision for any further general Levies of money, altho' the common defence has obliged Congress to issue very great sums in bills of Credit, creating a debt on the United States which we are bound jointly with them to extinguish. Honour, interest & duty urge us to perform our Share. All Schemes to restrain or cure the depreciation of the paper-money, without strenuous efforts in this way, will be found vain. We therefore recommend to you to establish an equal & practicable Law for Taxing your Constituents for this use.

Some money, you will find, has come into the Treasury for the forfeited goods & chattles of persons who have joined the Enemy. We have called on & shall again press the Agents to finish the sales & send in the produce of them. As no appropriation of these Re-

tates has been made, it remains for the Legislature to direct concerning them.

Other matters proper to be layed before you shall in due time be communicated. At present we conclude with observing, that the Law passed last January for the regulation of Waggon, Carriages, & pack-horses for the public service, is to expire with the present Sitting of Assembly.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO VICE-PRESIDENT BRYAN, 1778.

Philadelphia, 9th Novem., 1778.

Sir,

Inclosed with this I have the honor of transmitting you an Act of Congress of the 7th Inst. for laying before the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania a Letter of David Franks, the 18th October last, and the minutes of the proceedings of Congress thereon, together with the said Letter & Minutes.*

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient & Most humble Servant,

HENRY LAURENS,

President of Congress.

The Honorable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President of the State of Pennsylvania.

(COPY.) COL. HARTLEY TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1778.

Sunbury, Nov^r 9, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The enemy within these ten days have come down in force and invested Wyoming.

They have burnt and destroyed all the settlements on the North East Branch, as far as Nescopeck.

Fort Jenkins, where we have a small garrison, has supported itself for the present.

About 70 Indians were seen about 22 miles from here yesterday evening, advancing towards the forks of Chillisquaque, they took some prisoners yesterday.

With the small force we have we are endeavoring to make a stand. It may be too late to depend only upon the Militia from below,

* Not found.

they should be sent sooner—they cannot arrive in time to strengthen our garrison, but may come to relieve us. Had one or two regiments been sent on to Wyoming, as I requested, these calamities would now probably not have happened.

Wyoming, I make no doubt, will make a good defence, but the Garrison is rather too small.

Should the enemy take that post, New York, Pennsylvania and Jersey, will then too late think of its importance.

I am drawing some little force together, and to-morrow will endeavour to attack those Indians on Chillisquaque, if they keep in a body and make a movement towards Fishing creek, which will probably be of use to the people of Wyoming. If Wyoming falls, the Barbarians will undoubtedly approach these towns.

We are preparing to receive them, and tho our number is small, yet we shall endeavour to make them pay for the ground they gain.

I intended to have gone to Philadelphia before this, but am now determined to stay 'til the danger is over.

It would be well to put the rest of the frontiers on their guard, and have a certain number of classes of Militia ready to move where emergencies may require, besides the classes you may order here, as the enemy are certainly numerous, and it is not yet known how far they will extend their devastation.

I am with great respect,

Your most obedient

humble Serv^t,

THOS. HARTLEY.

The Honourable Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

We are much in want of flour.

T. H.

It is thought necessary by the people to request your Honorable board to order two classes from Lancaster, Cumberland and Berks, to march to the frontiers. Should we repulse the enemy before, I shall give notice to halt the Militia on their march. The Savages will be intent on plunder—the Militia may assist to retake the property of the poor inhabitants.

T. HARTLEY.*

(Copy—T. Matlack, Sec'y.)

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 621.

COUNCIL TO MONS. GERARD, 1778.

In Council,
Philadelphia, November 9, 1778.

Sir,

I have had the honor of your answer to my letter of the 23d of October. Your indisposition, at that time, rendered it improper to forward to you the deposition of Mr. Straker and others, tending to shew, that he had not by any means enticed away the negro man in question, and that he was altogether uninformed where the said negro was concealed. The discharge which you have been pleased to grant to Mr. Straker, renders it unnecessary now to trouble you with those depositions.

In Pennsylvania the liberty of a citizen is considered as a first object of Government, and I have the honour, in the most respectful terms, to present you the thanks of the Supreme Executive Council of the State, for your attention to their application in behalf of Mr. Straker, as a citizen of the State. Mutual interest may induce treaties of amity and commerce between nations, but it is politeness by which the French nation is so distinguished, and attention to the interest of each other which produce that esteem and cordial affection, so essentially necessary to render those treaties beneficial and lasting.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate you on the return of that portion of health which has enabled you to give attention to business, and I most sincerely wish for a perfect recovery and establishment of it.

I am, with the greatest respect,
Your honors most obedient
and very humble Servant,

G. B., V. P.

The Honorable the Sieur Gerard,
Minister Plenipotentiary of His Most Christian Majesty.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1778.

In Congress,
10th Novemb^r, 1778.

Whereas, it hath become necessary not only that speedy and vigorous measures should be taken to regulate the Commissary's and Quarter Master's departments, but also that a constant attention should be paid to those departments,

Resolved, That Mr. Scudder, Mr. G. Morris, and Mr. Whipple,

be a committee to Superintend the same departments, and that they or any two of them, be empowered to take such steps relating to the same as they shall think most for the public service.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

COMM'EE OF CONGRESS TO SUP. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1778.

Philadelphia, 11th November, 1778.

Sir,

The great & increasing difficulties in the Quarter Master & Commissary General Departments, have induced Congress to adopt the Resolution, of which we have the Honor to enclose you a Copy.— Among the measures immediately necessary for placing these matters on a proper Foundation, is, the acquiring a knowledge of the proper Resources of these States. The articles of consumption which we would most particularly be inform'd of are Flour, Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oats, Corn & Rice, Beef, Pork, working Oxen & Horses, Cyder & Vinegar. The Ignorance & the Interest of mankind oppose so strongly our wishes in this Respect, that after every Effort & every prudent precaution, our information will be of far less importance than could be wished. It is however our Duty to aim at it, & we have no Reason to doubt your Excellencys concurrence in the steps necessary to attain what we have in view. Especially when it is considered, how readily your own good sense will dictate the impracticability of continuing the War, at least of continuing it to advantage, while we remain supremely ignorant of the Supplies our Country is capable of affording. We have to entreat that your Excellency, from your knowledge of the productions of the several parts of your State, would appoint some proper Persons, in whose Industry & Secrecy you can confide, to make proper lists through the districts you shall severally allot to them, of the quantity & number of such of the Articles above named, as are produced in it, which may probably be over & above the necessary consumption of the Inhabitants, & also as nearly as possible, the quantity, &c., which they consume over & above their own Production, or of what they do not produce. We hope that these lists may be transmitted to us with all convenient speed, to the End that proper arrangements may be made for the Ensueing Campaign. Upon transmitting an Account of the Expences which may accrue in this Business, they shall immediately be paid. You will perceive, Sir, that every precaution should be taken to prevent this Object from transpiring, lest as on many

former occasions, the devoted adherents of Lucre should make a gain of the Public Distresses.

We are, respectfully,

Your Excellencies most Obed^t

& Humble Servants,

NATH'L SCUDDER,

GOUV^r. MORRIS,

WM. WHIPPLE.

Hon^{ble} President of the Supreme

Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

COMM^{EE} OF CONGRESS TO SUP. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1778.

Philadelphia, 11th November, 1778.

Sir,

The dangerous practices of Engrossers have increased so rapidly with the Public Distresses, & have so accumulated them, that every Friend to this Country, or even to Humanity, cannot but wish to see some remedy to an Evil which threatens the Existence, not only of the several States, but of the poorer part of the Individuals which compose them. We are fully sensible that this Disease should be touched with a cautious & with a delicate Hand, but at the same time we confide in the wisdom of your Legislature for this Delicacy & Caution. We do not pretend to mark out the means which they should adopt, but the Confidence reposed in us by Congress demands that we should at least hint what in our Idea may induce to this valuable purpose. The Articles necessary for the Consumption of the Army are easily designated, and we trust there will not be much difficulty in distinguishing between the Dealer in or Manufacturer of those Articles, & the Engrosser, or as he would call himself the Speculator. These two Objects being accomplished, it surely cannot be deemed inconsistent either with Policy or Justice, that he should be obliged to part with them to the Public. The Process necessary for this Purpose, must depend on the civil Institutions which may have been respectively adopted, but it should be as short & as simple as is consistent with the Constitution of the States. One thing more is necessary to compleat the System, namely, the price. If this is such as to leave the Speculator his profit, nothing more is operated by the Law than merely to sanctify his unrighteous Gains. If the Price be fixed by Law, the Efforts now making to render our money valuable, (and which we doubt not your Legislature will assist by heavy Taxes) will only tend to realize what he hath already accumu-

lated. Perhaps a power lodged somewhere to fix the Market price monthly, by the name of assize, and a Deduction from it of about Twenty ³/₄ Cent on Commodities, in the hands of Engrossers, would be most effectual. This However, & every thing else we have mentioned, is submitted to your wiser Consideration.

We have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most

Ob^t & Humble Servants,

NATH'L SCUDDER,

GOUV^r. MORRIS,

WM. WHIPPLE.

Hon'ble President of the Supreme

Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

COUNCIL TO COL. HARTLEY, 1778.

Philadelphia, November 14, 1778.

Sir,

Your letter to the Hon'ble Vice President, of the 9th Instant,* having been read in Council, was handed into the h'nble House of General Assembly now sitting, and immediately afterward laid before Congress. The resolutions of the last mentioned body you have enclosed, together with an extract of a letter relating to the movements and designs of His Excellency Gen^l Washington, on the river Susquehanna and its waters. About the 24th of last month His Excellency ordered one Regiment to march to the Minisinks, which will probably afford you as early assistance as can possibly be obtained in any way now practicable; and, no doubt His Excellency will order a further relief on receiving the resolves of Congress of this day, which are sent off by Express to him. This may the more fully to be expected, as there is no doubt but that two divisions of the enemy's army have left New York, and therefore detachments may be safely made from our army.

The Council of this State have repeatedly and earnestly pressed Congress to take vigorous and decisive measures for the defence of the frontiers of this State, against the invasion which was clearly foreseen and pointed out. It is in consequence of this that the battalion above mentioned has been ordered forward. Had an expedition to Chemung been undertaken by an enterprizing officer, with a proper force under his command, the effects would, probably, have been decisive in our favour. But we ought to suppose the determination of His Excellency to have been founded on good and suffi-

* See page 81.

cient reasons, and that there were difficulties in the way of this attempt unknown to us. Your attempt that way does you honor.

Upon mature consideration the Council have no hope of any timely assistance to you from the Militia, and therefore have pressed the more earnestly for aid from the Federal troops, which may join you earlier than it is possible for the Militia to do.

I ought to add that, it is said, Gen^l Pulaski's troop is ordered into Northampton county, but of this I have no authentic information.

With the greatest respect,

I am, Sir, your very hm ble Servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

Col^l Hartley.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1778.

In Congress, Nov^r 14, 1778.

A letter of 9th, from Col. Hartley, at Sunbury, to the Council of Pennsylvania, and one of the same date to the Board of War, were laid before Congress and read; whereupon, Ordered, That a Copy of the letter to the Board of War be sent to Gen^l Washington, and that he be directed to take such measures relative to the subject matter thereof as he may judge necessary.

That the Board of War give orders to the proper Officers for furnishing the troops in the posts on the Western frontiers, under the command of Col. Hartley, with provisions and other necessary supplies.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

COL. HARTLEY TO EXEC. COUNCIL, 1778.

Fort Jenkins, near Nescopack, Novem^r 14, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The Intelligence I mentioned in my last seems nearly confirm'd.

The Enemy are in Force between here and Wyoming. They seem verry intent, on plunder by their desolations near this place; they expected the Fronteers to give way; but the good countenance of this Garrison has saved all below.

I am new advancing towards Wyoming, I am weak, but I hope

for success; I have no enemy in rear and as I command the water, I am in expectation we shall be able to relieve Wyoming.

In case the Militia will be not paid by the United States, I would not wish you to send more than a Class from Cumberland and as many from Lancaster.

I am Gentlemen, with

great Respect your

most obed^t humb. Serv^t.

THOS. HARTLEY.

Directed.

To the Honorable Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO SUP. EXEC. COUNCIL, 1778.

Philadelphia, 14th November, 1778.

Sir,

Permit us to call your attention for a moment, to the detection & punishment of a Crime against the Public. Persons in office under the Continent have, as we are informed, used the Monies entrusted to them, in the Engrossing of articles upon the Public. This seething of the Kid in its Mothers milk, calls for the most exemplary punishment. We pray that you will urge the Legialature of your State, to pass Laws for the Prosecution & Punishment of Offenders of this Kind in future, & that in the Interim, your Excellency will cause any who may in your State be guilty of the like crimes, to be secured for Trial in safe & Close Custody.

We are respectfully

Your Excellency's most

obed^t Humble Servants,

NATH'L SCUDDER.

GOUV^r. MORRIS,

W^m WHIPPLE.

Directed,

Hon^{'ble} President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Philadelphia, 16th November, 1778.

Honorable Sir,

Within the present inclosure will be found two copies of the undermentioned Acts of Congress, viz.

An Act of the 26th August 1776 for establishing a provision for Soldiers and Seamen maimed or disabled in the Service of the United States, to which is subjoined a supplementary act of the 25th September, 1778, for the benefit of maimed and disabled Volunteers in the service of the States, antecedent to the date of the first above-mentioned act.

An Act of the 26th September for organizing the public Treasury, and for providing an House for the several offices of Treasury.

And Also an Act of this date now the 17th for setting apart Wednesday the 30th December next to be observed throughout these States as a day of general Thanksgiving.*

I have the honer to be

With great Respect,

Sir, your obedient &

most humble Servant,

HENRY LAURENS,

President of Congress.

P. S. You will also receive with this three copies of the Treaty of Alliance, & three of the Treaty of Commerces between the King of France & the United States of America, for the information & use of the State of Pennsylvania.

Directed,

The Honourable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President of Pennsylvania.

(COPY) GEN. WASHINGTON TO BOARD OF WAR, 1778.

Head Quarters, Fredicksb'g, Nov^r 18th, 1778.

Sir,

"The Troops of the Convention have advanced considerably towards the North River. They will be guarded to that place by the Militia of Connecticut, and from thence to Delaware by an Escort of Continental Troops, as I cannot with any degree of convenience send the Continental Troops beyond Delaware, I am under

* See proclamation of Council, Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 627.

"the necessity of desiring the Board to make a requisition to the
 "Executive Council of Pennsylvania to give orders to the County
 "Lieutenants of Northampton, Berks, Lancaster and York, to hold
 "four or five Hundred of the Militia of each of those Counties ready
 "against they shall be called upon by Colonel Bland of the 1st
 "Regiment of Dragoons, who is appointed by me to superintend the
 "march of the Troops the whole way—The Militia of each County
 "to march to the extent of their own Bounds, which will make the
 "duty very light. Be pleased likewise to desire that the Waggon
 "Masters of each of the above Counties, may be ordered to assist the
 "Quarter Masters who attend the Troops with Waggon sufficient
 "to transport the Baggage; I could wish that no time may be lost
 "in giving the orders, lest there should be some unnecessary delay
 "on the Road at this advanced Season, The Troops have hitherto
 "come on in very good order and with great expedition and I hope
 "they will continue so to do thro' the whole march."

—
 War Office, Nov^r 26th, 1778.

Sir,

I have the Honour of transmitting you an Extract from a Letter which owing to the unfortunate Delay on the Road I have but just received from His Excellency General Washington. I fear the Troops will be detained by the unavoidable Delay in getting out the Militia which will much distress us, as Provisions are laid up in no great quantities, at any Point of their Route, & it would be therefore extremely inconvenient for them to halt for any length of Time at any Place on their way. I am therefore to request the Hon. Council will be pleased to be pointed in their Orders to the Lieutenants of Counties & Waggon Masters to have every thing in Readiness that no Delay may occur in the Passage of the Troops thro' this State.

I have the Honour to be

with great Respect,

your very obed. Serv^t,

RICHARD PETERS,

On Behalf of the Board.*

Council will no doubt perceive the Necessity of collecting first the Militia of Northampton & Berks.

Directed,

On Public Service.

Hon^{ble} George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of the S. E. Council of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 587.

APPEAL OF CAPTAIN R. HARDIE FROM COURT MARTIAL,
1778.

To His Excellency The President of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

The appeal of Robert Hardie, late commander of the Burke Galley, from the Judgment of a Court Martial held at Bristol, the 9th of December, Ult^o, for the trial of Robert Hardie, for disobeying the Commodore's Orders :

May it Please your Excellency, I was ordered with three more Gallies to lye on Guard at Burlington, after remaining five or six days on Constant duty with the Boats at Point no Point during the day, & returning every night. The Officers & men complained that they were not Relieved according to Custom, nor the promise they had given them from the Commanding Officer; I accordingly applied to the Commodore to know when we were to be relieved, he told me that if the Gallies were to ly these six months they should not be Relieved. I remonstrated to the Commodore that his treatment was contrary to all order and Regularity, in the highest degree arbitrary & oppressive, & that without a Regular Notice of Duty through the whole fleet, & a total impartiality, anarchy and confusion would ensue. That I thought it my Duty to myself & Crew to deviate from such unsound & unreasonable orders, & that I would immediately order my Galley to Bristol; this was put in execution, in consequence of which I was arrested. The Court sat and I was Broke, & ordered to be confined as a Dangerous man to the American States. My Trial was equally unjust and cruel. Instead of being according to our Regulation by the Galley's officers, The men that fought with me, guarded and did every other duty with me. The Court consisted of many of the officers of the fire Vessels & Guard Boats, men that never had been on the like business, some not of Age, particularly the Commodore's son, who from his father's Accusation had no right to a seat. The Judgment shewed the Incapability of the Court, for without any Evidence, or other grounds than the Visionary Phantoms of their Childish Brains, I was to be confined as a Dangerous enemy to the States; my constant uniform Behaviour from the beginning of this contest, gives their suspicions the Lye. To serve my Countrey I have sacrificed my private fortune sufficient to have supported me with ease and affluence, considerable sums are Loan'd in the State funds, to sink or swim by the Issue of our Arms, & myself risking my person equally with my fellow sufferers to banish Tyranny and Oppression from our shores. Under these peculiar circumstances, to have my Character thus stigmatized after leaving my Possessions to the ravages of a Cruel & revengefull enemy in Philadelphia, to be deprived of my Pay and subsistence so necessary for me under all these trying circumstances, together which

is worst of all to brand me with the Opprobrious Epithet "A Dangerous Enemy to the United States," this is truly Distressing, & which I cannot nor will bear. I acknowledge I was too Rash & hasty in my Proceedings, But at the same time sheweth by the Tenor of this my Appeal, that the Commodore's Conduct towards me is both Rash & unprecedented, & if no Failure had happened on his part, I trust none should have been on mine; I have applied to the Commodore to reinstate me, but says has it not in his Power, Desiring me at the same time to make application to your Excellency's favour & good will; I flatter myself I shall once more have it in my power to shew my firm and steady attachment to the State in Particular, & to the whole United States of America.

I am Sir your Excellency's

most obed^t humble Serv^t,

ROB^t HARDIE.

Delivered at Lancaster latter end last Febr'y, & dated Feb'y 14th, 1778, of which this is the copy.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Esq^r, President of the Executive Council, Pennsylvania.

MEMORIAL^y OF ROBERT HARDIE, 1778.

To the Supreme Executive Council of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania.

The Memorial of Robert Hardie, late Captain of the armed Boat Burke,

Most humbly sheweth :

That your Memorialist from being a man of Fortune and Affluence is, by reason of his Attachment to the American Cause, considerably reduced in his Circumstances & Estate.

That before the Commencement of the present War, he was under no Necessity to labour for his Support, the Income of his Estate being more than sufficient for that purpose; But rather than remain an idle spectator when his Country was engaged in the Support of her just rights and Liberties and call'd for his Assistance, he risked his whole Fortune, together with his Life in her defence. That since his entering into the Service he hath met with considerable and very heavy Losses. His Houses have been plundered by the Enemy, & his landed Estate very much spoiled. That sometime in the Month of December last Your Memorialist was dismissed from the Service by an unjust Sentence of a Court Martial, from which Sentence he

appealed to Council, which Appeal he soon afterwards delivered in to Council, who were at that time so much engaged about other Matters that he could not obtain a Hearing. That on the 9th of March last, he was taken by the Enemy and brought into this City, where he was confined till the City was evacuated, & then carried to Long Island & was confined there for the space of 12 weeks, and was then released upon his Parol for 6 Months only, and had Liberty granted him to come to this City. That he hath a Wife and four Children to maintain & provide for whose whole Dependence is now upon your memorialist for a support, and he being a Prisoner and deprived of his Commission, & his Estate being also at the same time ruined, has it not in his Power to afford them any relief. Wherefore he most earnestly intreats Council to take his case into Consideration, & grant him a hearing upon his appeal, to use their Influence with the Commissary of Prisoners here to procure his Enlargement by Exchange as soon as possible; to make him some Compensation for the Losses which he hath sustained and which have accrued to him by reason of his attachment to the Cause in which he was engaged; And to make some Provision for him in future so that he may be enabled to support and maintain his helpless Family.

And your Memorialist shall ever pray, &c,

ROB^t HARDIE.

Philad^a 18, Nov^r 1778.

MRS. GALLOWAY TO THE VICE PRESIDENT, 1778.

Mrs. Galloways compliments to the Vice President, and begs he wou'd permit her to cut a flat Load of Oak, & a flat load of Hickery Wood, off the place on Delaware; as Wood is now so dear for her to purchase, & she requests no more then for her own use, which she hopes will be comply'd with as her circumstances at present requires this indulgence, & Mrs. Galloway hopes the Vice President will be so kind as to send her an order for the same, as a Gentleman who will go out of town tomorrow will undertake to send it to her if Properly authorized.

November y^e 18th, 1778.

* See answer, p. 95.

GEN. SULLIVAN TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1778.

Providence, Novem^r 20th, 1778.

Gentlemen,

As I had the Honor to Direct the Construction of the Bridge over Schuylkil,* near Valley Forge, and wish it to stand for the benefit of the Inhabitants of Pennsylvania, I take the Liberty of Recommending the Filling up the Piers or Boxes with Stones; also, a number of Stones to be Thrown Round the Boxes to prevent the Sand washing away Round the sides. These precautions being taken, I flatter myself the Bridge will stand till the lumber decays.

I have the honor to be with

Great Respect, Gentlemen,

Your Honors most obed^t

& very Servant,

JNO. SULLIVAN.

Hon^{ble} Assembly of Pennsylvania.

JOHN DELANEY TO COMMITTEE OF SAFETY, 1778.

To the Honorable the Committee of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of John Delany, a Private in the Pennsylvania State Regim^t, Commanded by Col. Stewart,

Humbly Sheweth:

That your Petitioner, at the first forming the said Regiment was enlisted in Maryland, and ever since served in the same until on the 4 October, 1777, he was wounded at Germantown, lost one of his Leggs, and has from that time mostly been kept at the Hospital in Readingtown; That he is not to this day discharged from the Hospital because his Cure is not quite finished, so that near Eleven months pay is due to him, for the obtaining of which he has applied to the Continental Board of War, who directed him to Seek for his relief at Your Honorable Board.

He humbly prayeth for your Honours Order to the proper Department where his arrears of pay may be settled, and he receive the same immediately, as he is in great want thereof for his subsistence, and as he has received no other Clothes but what was de-

* See Vol. VI., p. 685.

ducted out of his Pay, he further prayeth that he may be furnished with some articles of Clothing.

And your Petitioner, as in duty, &c.

JOHN DELANY.

Philad^a 21 Nov^r, 1778.

I do herby certify, that the above named was wounded at the Battle of Germantown, & received no pay since January last.

LEWIS FARMER, L^t Col. 2^d P. R.

I do hereby certify, that have settled with John Delany to the 1st January, 1778, & to my knowledge has recd no Pay since.

JACOB L. SWYLER,

late P. M^r 13th P. R^t.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GEN. WASHINGTON, NOV. 23, 1778.

In mine of the 18th, I desired the Board might make a requisition of the Militia of the Counties of Northampton, Berks, Lancaster and York, for the Escort of the Convention troops thro Pennsylvania. Their Route being since changed for the convenience of Forage and provision, they will now pass the Delaware at Sherrards Ferry, and therefore the Board will be pleased to require the Militia of Bucks and Philadelphia, in lieu of those of Northampton and Berks, as they will pass below those Counties.

COUNCIL TO MRS. GALLOWAY, 1778.

Philad^a, Nov^r 24, 1778.

Madam,

The Council have considered your application to the honorable Vice President, for a formal permission to cut two flat loads of Wood from the plantation called Belmont, for your use.†

I am directed to inform you that the Council apprehend that you are entitled to do so—have no objection to your cutting the quantity of Wood mentioned, provided nothing be done which will, by any means, injure or bring in question the right which the State hath in

* See page 89.

† See page 98.

the said plantation during the life of Joseph Galloway, Esqr., or to lessen the yearly value of the same.

Yours, &c.

T. M.

To Mrs. Grace Galloway.

THOS. SAVADGE TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Philadelphia, Nov^r 25th, 1778.

S^r,

I would beg to be informed wether the accounts of the State Salt Works, which I sent the latter end of May, or beginning of June last, I am not certain which, directed to the Hon^{ble} Thos. Wharton, jun^r, Esq^r., late president of this State, together with a letter, have been laid before the Hon^{ble} Council—at that time I had not heard of his decease, nor till three weeks after I had sent them, but apprehend he was at that time dead; they were sent by a man who said he lived between Reading and Lancaster, that he was going to Lancaster in a day or two after he should get home, and promised to deliver them with his own hand to the President. I do not recollect his name, but have the Copy of the letter I wrote to the President, which I believe will give his name. What makes me the more particular in this, I mentioned it to Mr. Matlack, and he knew nothing of their coming to hand. If they have not come to hand, I can furnish the Hon^{ble} Council with a duplicate of those Acc^{ts}, which I have at the Works, whenever they shall think proper to call for them.

I would also beg leave to know wether the ration bill for the troops that were stationed at the Works, from y^e 8 of June, 1777, to Jan. following, is to be charged to the Works, or wether it is to be paid by the State Coms^{ry}.

Mr. Crispin had Orders from the late President to furnish me with provisions or money, whichever was most convenient for that purpose; he never furnished me but in part, there remains a ballance of upwards of £1200, part of which is still owing to sundry persons, who grow clamorous about it, and a part I am in advance, would be glad that the Hon^{ble} Council would informe me the manner in which it is to be settled.

Also, that there are at the Works seventeen Hogs which I have raised there, some of them two years hold, it is highly necessary y^e should be fatted, there being nothing for them to live on but what y^e get on the meadows, and now frost has come, y^e can get nothing and will perish. Also, a Cow, that as soon as the Calf has taken from her goes dry—both last year and this is now in good order, and

with a little Corn will be good beef in a few weeks; the Hogs will make, I suppose, between two or three thousand w^t of Pork, that, with as much beef, would be sufficient for the ensuing year, if Council should think proper to carry the Works on.

The Horses must have some Corn thro' the Winter, y^e cannot live altogether on Salt hay. I beg y^e Hon^r will take the earliest opportunity to lay it before the Hon^{ble} Council for their deliberation thereon.

I am, Sir,

Your most Obd^t

Humble Serv^t,

THOS. SAVADGE.

Directed,

The Hon^{ble} George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President of y^e Hon^{ble} Council of State Pennsylvania.

COL. ANDW. BOYD TO COUNCIL, 1778.

To the Honorable the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

We, the Subscribers, begs leave to inform you, that notwithstanding the Honable Assembly determind the Ellection of the County of Chester in favor of the Chatham District, and part of the Red Lyon, yet the Board of Commissioners and Assessors continue to sit contrary to said determination, the two Commissioners then being, immediately after the Ellection summond the third Commissioner and Assessors illegally Ellected, and each of them took the oath of office.

We would humbly intreat the Hon^e Council to cause the Legal Ellected members of the said Board of the County Chester to take their Seats at their Board.

ROBERT SMITH, C. Lt.

ANDW. BOYD, S. Lt.

26th Novm., 1778.

Sketchly Morton and David Cloyd, is the Com^{rs} not Ellected this year.

The Honourable the Supreme Executive Council.

Indorsement,

Read in Council, (2d time) Jan'y 9, 1779.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XL, p. 662.

COUNCIL TO JAMES YOUNG, 1778.

In Council,
Philadelphia, November 26, 1778.

Sir,

On the other side is an extract of a letter from His Excellency Gen'l Washington to the Board of War, by which you will see it is his Excellency's desire that the Quarter Masters may be assisted with Waggons sufficient to transport the baggage of the troops of the Convention thro this State.

You will please to give the utmost assistance agreeable to his Excellency's request, and we recommend that you apply immediately to the Board of War for their instructions respecting the number of Waggons necessary. Perhaps it may be best to send one set of Waggons quite thro the State.

By order of the Board.

G. B., V. P.

James Young, Esqr.,
Waggon M^r of Penns^a.

COUNCIL TO BOARD OF WAR, 1778.

Philad^a, Nov^r 26, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The Council, on receiving your letter of this morning, immediately dispatched orders to the Lieutenant of the county of Bucks to march one class of the Militia of that county to Easton, with all possible expedition, and like orders to the Lieutenant of the county of Philadelphia to march to the same place one class from each of the Battalions of that county, except only those Battalions which have a class in present service. These orders, it is expected, will afford the number of men required, and they will conduct the Convention troops thro this State to the line of Maryland, this mode being liable to much less expence and delay than the conducting of them from county to county.

The Waggon Master General has orders to call on you for directions as to the number of Waggons necessary for the service mentioned, and he will of course furnish you with them.

With great respect, I am

Your very humble Serv^t,

T. M., Sec'y.

Humble Board of War.

COL. BLAND TO BOARD OF WAR, 1778.

Newburgh, State of N. York, Nov^r 27th, 1778.S^r,

I have it in Command, from his Excy Gen. Washington, to inform the Command'g Officers of the Militia of the counties adjacent to the Route of the Convention troops on their march to Charlottesville, in Virginia, of the time when I expect they will arrive on the Borders of your State, that so there may be no delay in having the Militia in readiness to receive them when they arrive; in consequence of which, I have the honor to Inform you 1st that I expect the first division will arrive at Sherrards Ferry, on Sunday the 29th of Nov^r, when I sh^d be happy to find about 100 Militia there properly officered to receive and conduct them through the State of Pennsylvania, the second, third, fourth, fifth & sixth divisions will arrive in succession, day after day, & an equal number of Militia will be requisite for each escort.

I have the Honor to be, Sir,

Y^r very Humb^l Serv^t,

THEO. K. BLAND,

Col. Comm'g the Esc^t to the troops of Convent^a.*

COUNCIL TO ROBT. GALBRAITH, 1778.

Philadelphia, Nov^r 27, 1778.

Sir,

The Council have read and considered your letter of the 21st Instant, purporting to resign the offices of Prothonotary, Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the Orphans Court, in the county of Bedford, in favour of David Espie, Esqr.

I am directed to acquaint you, that the resignation of the offices which you hold cannot be received as being *in favour of any person whatever*. If you think proper to make the resignation of these offices, it must be done clearly, fully & simply, without condition or reservation. This is not intended as an opposition to Mr. Espie,† but to prevent the effects of an improper example.

I am, respectfully,

Your very hm^lble Servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

To Robert Galbraith, Esqr.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 627. †

† See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 628, 646.

COUNCIL TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1778.

In Council, Nov^r 27th, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The late Council of Safety, among other establishments for the defence of the State, provided an armed Ship, thirteen Gallies, each to mount one heavy Gun, & several Barges, carrying one small Cannon in every of them. To these, the Brigantine Convention, of the Galley kind, has been since added. The Ship was burned last year in the Delaware, near Gloucester. Three of the Gallies, and three of the Barges, are fitted & manned, the rest are laid up, except one Galley, which is lying sunk in Croswicksunk Creek, near Bordentown. Three River Craft belonging to the State also remain. As from the late happy turn in public affairs, & the withdrawing great part of the Enemy's force for this Country, & the appearance that full employment will be found for them elsewhere, the use of these vessels is greatly lessened; Council recommend, that a Bill be framed by Assembly, & published for consideration, for the purpose of passing an Act for enabling Council to sell, by public sale, such part of these Vessels as shall be deemed superfluous.—Such property is of a perishable nature, & is every day.

Franklin, Hancock & Chatham Gallies, & barges Lyon, Viper, & Fame.

GEN. ROBERDEAU TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Philad^a, Nov^r 28th, 1778.

Sir,

Permit me the liberty to refer to the enclosed letter from Mrs. Ferguson† to me, and to assure the Hon^{ble} the Council, through you, that in the most free and intimate Conversation with that Lady I never could discover the least tincture of disaffection to our America, but on the contrary, she has repeatedly declared an *inviolable* attachment to her interest.

If the Hon^{ble} Council should favor the Ladys request I dare vouch for her Integrity, and that her plighted promise will be sacredly regarded. I am, with most respectfull Regard to Council, their and your

Most ob^t & very hum^l Serv^t,

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

The Honorable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XL, p. 638.

† See Colon. Rec., Vol. XL, pp. 622, where a pass for New York, for which she applied, is refused.

BOARD OF WAR TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

War Office, Nov^r 29th, 1778.

Sir,

I have the Honor of communicating an Extract of a Letter just received from his Excellency Gen^l Washington, on the subject of the Militia & Waggons heretofore required for the Convention troops. I am to request you will be pleased to lay it before the Council immediately, as the troops are advancing, & farther orders are necessary in the Alteration of their Route.

I have the Honour to be,

with great respect,

Your very obed^t Serv^t,

RICHARD PETERS.

Hon^{'ble} George Bryan, Esqr.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONGRESS, 1778.

In Congress, 30th Nov^r, 1778.

Resolved,

That in all cases where forage is wanted for the troops, and cannot be purchased by the Commissaries at reasonable rates, application be made to the executive or legislative authority of the State, wherein the forage is required, or to some person or persons properly authorised by them for that purpose, for their interposition and assistance in procuring the necessary supplies :

That it be recommended to the government of the States, wherein the army, or any detachment or part thereof now is, or hereafter shall be, to take such measures in the aid of the forage masters, who shall first use every endeavour to purchase the same, for the procuring sufficient quantities of forage at reasonable rates, as shall in their opinion be effectual and most likely to procure a speedy supply.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1778.

Philadelphia, 2d December, 1778.

Sir,

Under cover with this Your Excellency will receive two Acts of Congress,

1. An Act of the 24th Ult*, for the further arrangement of the Army, & five Copies.
2. An Act of the 30th of the same Month, for obtaining forage for the Army.

Permit me, Sir, in this first Address, since your appointment to preside in the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, to congratulate with you on this demonstration of the affairs & high esteem of your fellow citizens, & to wish that your administration may be attended with circumstances to make you as happy, as I am persuaded it will contribute to the Interests & honor of the State.

I have the honor to be,

With the highest esteem &

Respect, Sir, your Excellency's

Obedient & most hum. Servant,

HENRY LAURENS,

President of Congress.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire,
President, Pennsylvania.*

B. HARBESON AND OTHERS TO COUNCIL, 1778.

To the Hon'ble the Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of the Subscribers humbly sheweth, That they are fitting out a valuable Vessel for importing Merchandize into this State, but at present cannot procure Guns or Ammunition for money. We, therefore, most earnestly request your Hon'ble Board will be pleased to lend or sell us eight or ten Carriage Guns, and a small

* Gen. Reed was elected on the 1st December, by joint vote of Assembly and Council, President of the Supreme Executive Council, (and Geo. Bryan, V. P.,) and proclaimed at the Court House "to be Captain General and Commander in Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." The whole number of votes was 68—of which Gen. R. had the whole except 2. See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., pp. 632-634.

quantity of amunition, which will very much oblige your Petitioners.

BENJ'N HARBESON,
JOS. DEAN,
JNO. PURVIANCE.

Philad'a, Decr 3d, 1778.

COL. GEO. WALL, JR., TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Bucks County, December y^e 3d, 1778.

Sir,

I have just now received the enclosed letter, with three others, I suppose of the same nature, in consequence of which I have stoped the march of the Militia to Easton till further Orders from the Hon'ble Council.

The second class, which is now called out, is to Rendezvous this Day at Sherards Ferry, where the Prisoners they are intended to Guard are to Cross the Delaware into this State; there will not, I believe, be more than one hundred men turn out in the above mentioned Class.

I have about 30 Stand of Arms, which with what the Militia can supply themselves with, will furnish them in that respect—how they are to be supplied with ammunition I know not.

I am, with due respect,

Your humble Servant,

GEO. WALL, jr.

To the Hon'ble George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President, or
Col. Timothy Matlack, Esqr., Secretary.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 636.

COUNCIL TO COL. GEORGE WALL, 1778.

In Council,

Philadelphia, Dec^r 4, 1778.

Sir,

Your letter of the third instant has been laid before the Council. It is greatly distressing to hear that so small a number of men in your county appear upon a call of so peculiar kind, and to a service attended with so very few difficulties. The service *must be performed*, and immediately; for, should five or six thousand troops be delayed for any time in a place where no provision is made for them, they must necessarily eat up the country round them for a very considerable distance, and distress the farmer to an extreme degree; the Council is therefore under an absolute necessity to order, and you are hereby required to call out two other classes of the Militia of your county. Your zeal upon every occasion in which the interest of your country is concerned, renders it unnecessary to urge you upon the present very pressing one, otherwise this order would have been expressed in the strongest terms. You know and feel the necessity of the measure now ordered, and you will of course do every thing in your power to execute it.

The Route by which these troops are to march is to be directed by Col^l Bland.

To Col^l Wall, Lient. of the County of Bucks.

COUNCIL TO COLLS. OF BUCKS COUNTY MILITIA, 1778.
(CIRCULAR.)

In Council,

Philadelphia, Dec. 4, 1778.

Sir,

Application has been made to the Council by his Excellency, Gen^l Washington, for a guard of militia to escort the Convention troops thro' this State, on their way to the Southward, and for this purpose orders have been issued to call out a class of Militia from your county and one from Philad^a county (except'g only a part already in another Service). But Council has received information from Coll. Wall* that your county has turned out not more than one hundred men; this has alarmed the Council with apprehensions of the fatal consequences which must follow from a delay of five or

* See page 108.

six thousand men, even for a few days, in a place where no proper provision has been made for them. They must eat up the country for a great distance round them, and distress the inhabitants, already too much exhausted, to an extreme degree. Council have therefore ordered out for this duty two other classes from the afore-said counties.

The honour as well as the interest of the State is concerned on this occasion, and therefore confiding in your acknowledged zeal in the support of both these, Council is induced to inform you of the present difficulty, and to request that you will assist the Lieutenant and Sub Lieutenants in Spiriting up the people of your County to do their duty, and not to Suffer it to be Said that these troops have been delayed in Pennsylvania for want of a proper exertion of its inhabitants.

(CIRCULAR.) COUNCIL TO SUB-LIEUTENANTS, 1778.

In Council,

Philadelphia, 5th December, 1778.

Sir,

As the present funds of this State are too far exhausted to admit of further advances of money for the recruiting service, it is become necessary that you forbear to supply any of the Gentleⁿ of the army employed in that business, & recommended to you, with more than they can immediately claim by Certificates of enlistment produced to you. This Instruction you will take care to communicate to them. In Short; it is become impossible to continue it, unless the Assembly, without delay, enable Council by a fresh Supply of the Treasury to proceed.

In the mean time, it is highly expedient that you transmit to me, as soon as conveniently may be, exact Accounts of the payments you have made and may make for this use, distinguishing the name of each officer, his station & regiment respectively, & carefully noting the dates of each receipt.

As the expenditures of the State, otherwise, call for great sums, and the public stock is at present small, I wish you may improve every opportunity of transmitting to D. Rittenhouse, Esquire, the Treasurer, whatever militia fines may remain within your reach.

I am, Sir, &c.

PRES. REED TO PRES. OF CONGRESS, 1778.

In Council,

Philad^a, Dec^r 5th, 1778.

Sir,

A few days ago the Board of War applied to this Council to order out a Body of Militia as an Escort to relieve a Detachment of the Continental Troops Guarding the Remains of the Convention Troops on their way to Virginia. Upon which the necessary Steps were taken with all possible Dispatch; but to prevent as much as possible apprehended Delay & Difficulties, I am charged to represent to Congress, that the delay of the General's letter on the Road, it having been wrote on the 18th Inst., & not received till the 26th, leaves too small a space of Time to comply with the terms of the Law or substantial Preparation for such a March. That the Invasion of the State the last Year by which the Militia were subjected to constant & very severe service makes it an Act of Justice to give them all possible indulgence, as their agriculture & necessary Attention to their Families was very much interrupted by their military Duty. We might also observe that the great number of Waggon's from this State, & Persons employed in inferior Stations in the Staff Department, together with those employed in the various Manufactures, exclusive of those engaged in the Supply of Bread for the Publick, occasion a very heavy Drain of Men & makes the Duty very burthensome on those that remain, who have not, nor affect to have Scruples of Conscience against bearing arms. We are authorized to say, Sir, that the Farmers of this State, from various publick Reasons are now very backward in the Work, & tho' we have directed the necessary Levies to be made for this Service, it would be a great Relief to them if the Troops which have escorted them thro' the States of New York & New Jersey could be directed to proceed. And was the Commander in Chief fully acquainted with our Circumstances we have no doubt he would cheerfully direct it. If, upon a Representation of these Circumstances, Congress should think proper to vary the Arrangement, it will be very acceptable to the State, but if not we shall endeavour to manifest our attention to the public service & Respect for your Body by forwarding the Business with all possible Dispatch.

A farther duty, Sir, yet remains, which is to represent to Congress that the calling the Militia to perform the common & ordinary Duties of Guards over streets & at the Doors of Offices, is found by Experience to debase the Ideas formerly held of this species of military Service, & we fear will in little Time extinguish those finer feelings which have in the hour of Difficulty & Danger produced such great & happy effects. We therefore have to request that as the Continental Troops are soon to be placed in Winter Quarters

this species of duty may be transferred to them, & the militia excused as far as possible from every Duty which does not immediately include an Idea of action & honourable Service.

I have the Honour, &c.,

JOSEPH REED, President.

Directed,

To the Honble Henry Laurens, Esq^r President of Congress.

COUNCIL TO MAJOR EDWARDS, 1778.

Philadelphia, December 5th, 1778.

Sir,

I am directed by the Council to request that you will view the new bridge over Schuylkill, called Sullivan's bridge,* and report the condition of it to the Council, and endeavour to form an estimate of the expence of securing it effectually during the winter.

I am respectfully,

Your very humble servant,

TY MATLACK, Sec'y.

Directed,

To Major Edwards, Providence Township.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF WAR TO COL.
BLAND, 1778.

War Office Dec. 6, 1778.

Sir,

"The honble Council of this State have represented to Congress, that they are apprehensive it will not be in their power, (from the peculiar situation of the Inhabitants, and from want of sufficient notice, as the General's Letter respecting the militia was much delayed on the road,) to collect in due time a competent number of militia to relieve the Troops escorting the convention prisoners. I am therefore to direct you to march the Continental Troops now under your command, thro' this State, until a sufficient force of militia is collected to relieve them. But as the militia of Bucks, Philadelphia and Chester are now assembling it will be best to take

* See page 768, Vol. VI.

them along with you, & send off so many Continental Troops as their numbers amount to; and you will please to observe a similar conduct as the militia of the upper counties (to the Lieutenants whereof the Council have sent their orders,) are collected; so that the Troops may return to Camp by Detachments as they are relieved from time to time by militia. The Board could have wished circumstances admitted of their discharging the Troops agreeably to the General's desire; but in our present situation the above plan is the only one we can adopt."

JOSEPH KIRKBRIDE TO PRES. REED, 1778.

Bordentown, Dec^r 6th, 1778, 9 o'clock A. M.

Sir,

Your Excel'y's Orders of the 4th Inst., this moment came to hand by Express, which is the first notice I have had of any Militia being call'd. Your Excel'y may be assur'd that every possible Exertion shall be us'd on my part to draw out a Competent number of the Militia.

The Orders for marching the second Class, I am now inform'd was Directed to Col. Wall, but what progress he has made, I only know from your Excel'y Letter now before me.

I very much apprehend rais'g the two class's now order'd out, (Exactly agreeable to Law,) will be rendered less usefull, by the delay that must necessarily be made in that case; but every possible measure that can be devis'd to quicken their march shall not, on my part be wanting.

I have the Hon^r to be

Your Excellencie's most Respectful

& Obed^t Hum. Servant,

JO. KIRKBRIDE,

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

By Express.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 637.

THOS. SAVADGE TO PRES. REED, 1778.

Philadelphia, Decr 7, 1778.

Sr,

In a letter dated Nov. 25, I sent into Council, I begged leave to be informed wether the accounts of the state salt works, sent to Lancaster, had come before Council, and wether the ration bill of the troops stationed at the s^t works, from y^e 8 of June, 1777 to y^e 9 of Jan^r following, is to be carried into the general accounts of the s^t works, or be settled in the Comiss^r department. Mr. Crispin had orders from the late president to furnish me either with provisions or money, which ever was most convenient for that purpose, which he has not done, but, in part, there are considerable sums owing to divers persons for provisions, &c., had for the use of those troops, who are very pressing for their money, also sundry workmen, who left me for want of their wages being duly paid, which I had not in my power to pay them, being in advance all the Cash I had of my own, at Command, for whisky, &c., for the use of the troops, &c., which I am now very much necessitated for at this time, for the use of my family; should be glad that y^r Hon^r and the Hon^{ble} Council would order the manner in which it is to be settled.

There are at the works a Number of hoggs and one Cow that should be fatted. I have not money to purchase Corn for that purpose, or should have done ere now; there is a necessity for doing it, there being nothing for them to live on dureing the winter, it will also be necessary some Corn &c., be provided for the horses, they cannot live on salt hay alone in winter.

If Council should think proper to carry the works into execution it will be necessary that a further sum be granted for that purpose. There are three pans now up and part of the Brickwork of two others, there will be a necessity for half a ton of Iron rolled five inches wide & one quarter of an inch thick, to rivet over the Joynts of the bottoms of the pans, the mettle expanding so much by the violence of the fire that when Cold water is pumped into them causes them to Leak, which can be remedied no other way then rivetting a narrow plate over the Joynts, which does effectually secure them, having been proved in several instances by persons under the same Circumstances. A smith and four labourers will make the three pans, that are now up, fit to work in two or three weeks at most, which will make from fifteen to twenty bushels of salt ~~9~~ day when the water is good; the other two pans may be Completed in as little time. To Carry the three pans on will require three boilers, two carters and four wood cutters. The sum of five hundred pounds will be sufficient to compleat the five pans and carry them on so far as to satisfy your Hon^r and the Hon^{ble} Council of the propriety and consequence of such a work.

If on the other hand Council should decline carrying on the work any farther, I beg they would inform me who I am to settle my accounts with, and in what manner they would have the stock of Cattle &c., belonging to the works taken care of.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Humble servant,

THO^s SAVADGE.

Directed,

To The Hon^{ble} Jos. Reed, Esq^r, president of the Hon^{ble} Council of state of Pennsylvania.

PRES. REED TO COL. RICHARD MCALLESTER, 1778.

Philadelphia, December 9th, 1778.

Sir,

The Hon^{ble} the Continental Congress, having required a Body of Militia from this state to escort the Prisoners, under the Convention of Saratoga, to the Borders of this state, on their way to Virginia, I am to inform you that the Militia of the Counties of Bucks & Philadelphia will perform this Duty in part, but it will be necessary for the County of York to turn out a part of her Militia to meet the Prisoners on the Banks of the Susquehannah, at Wright's Ferry, with all possible dispatch. You are, therefore, hereby required to call out one Class of the Militia of your County for the Purpose a^d, agreeable to the enclosed resolve of the Council. And as the service will be both Honorable & Easy, we hope you will have a sufficient Number prepared to receive them, as the Divisions respectively arrive; The whole Number will be about 5,000, they march in 6 Divisions, and follow each other very close. The first Division crossed the Delaware this Morning, so that a vigorous exertion on your Part, and activity on that of the officers & men on this occasion, will give you time sufficient. We hope there will be no occasion for an Extraordinary supply of arms, but if there should, you must apply to Mr Henry of Lancaster. Provisions, &c., are laid up on the route. It is with much Concern, I observe that from the indulgences said to have been formerly given in your County, some Persons apprehend we have but little to expect. I make no Doubt but you will exert yourself to disappoint them, and save the state the Mortification and Disgrace of acknowledging our Inability to do what other states have done at a very short Notice, and with great Dispatch. Col. Bland has the general Direction of the Business, to whom you are to apply farther if Necessary.

I have now only to add that these Prisoners have, in some Instances, proved Disorderly and licentious on their March, as their

Route, therefore, lays thro' your County, the Preservation of the Inhabitants from Insult & their Property from Destruction, will afford you an additional Motive to leave nothing undone to have the Guard prepared, For any Delay on this account will not only be a Reproach to the state but prove extremely burthensome to the Inhabitants where such a Delay happens, all the Provisions & Forage being laid in as for a continued March.*

I am, Sir,

Your most obed. & very

Humble Servant,

J. R., Pres't.

Directed.

Col. Richard M^cAllister, Lieut^a of the County of York.

THOMAS SAVADGE TO PRESIDENT REED, 1778.

Philadelphia, Decr 8, 1778.

Sr,

I humbly Ask pardon of y^r Hon^r and the Hon^{ble} Council, & in particular M^r McLean and M^r Owen Biddle, whom I must confess with shame I have Used extremely ill by inadvertently imposing a falsehood on M^r McLean and M^r Owen Biddle, by saying I had the Copy of my articles from M^r Biddle, a peice of Conduct I cannot but with the greatest shame account for; therefore shall not attempt to Vindicate it other than by humbly and sincerely asking your pardon. I had, some days before I came to town, taken a Copy of the articles and put into my saddle-bagg, together with a copy of the law passed in favour of the works for exempting the people from Militia duty, which did not occur to me at the time M^r McLean asked me about it; but on going home to my dinner, I recollected it and brought it with me in the afternoon. I hope your Hon^{rs} will pass it by if possible, as I shall for the future take care not to do the like.

If your Honours want to know where the deed for the land on which the works are built is, it is in my possession, and have left it with the books and other papers of my own, in the hands of a friend. My reason for leaving it is, the deed M^r Mott gave when I brought it up was disapproved, and another drawn by M^r Jⁿ Morris, which M^r Mott made some exceptions to. I brought it here, and pointed out M^r Mott's Objections, and Council agreed to the erasement, since which I have not had an Opportunity to get it signed for want of

* This order was countermanded on the 12 inst., see letter of that date on page 115.

the evidence that signed the other, who always happened to be out when Mr Mott has been at home. The plan of the works I believe is among my papers at the works, but I will not be certain of it. Whether Mr Biddle and Mr Clymer have one I do not recollect, but think what papers they have are lodged with Mr Clymer. Any other information Council may require respecting the works I shall fully Communicate if it is in my power; and if they would make further inquiry about them, I would inform them that Doct^r Harris has been at the works and seen them all over, and Can, I make no doubt, give Council a very satisfactory account of them, he haveing a Considerable work of his Own, and Consequently a Competent Judge of them. Should be Very glad council would appoint a Committee of Judicious Men who are Competent Judges of such a works, to enquire into my Carracter, my Conduct, and my accounts respecting the works, being Conscious to myself that I have done everything in my power to Carry the Works into execution, agreeable to my articles or any other instructions I ever received. I am, Sir, with all submission,

Your Most Obedient

Humble Servant,

THO^s SAVADGE.

Directed,

To The Honourable Jo^s Reed, Esq^r President of the Hon^{ble} Council of state of Pennsylvania.

COUNCIL TO COMMODORE HAZELWOOD, 1778.

Philadelphia, December 10, 1778.

Sir,

The Council has advertised the sale of the boats, gallies, and other vessels belonging to the state,* except only one sloop, on Monday next; and it is become necessary to have an inventory of the several Vessels immediately, so that it may be sent to the Press to morrow at noon. You will please to send it to me as soon as possible.

I am, with great respect,

Your very humble servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

Indorsed.

To Commodore Hazelwood.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 638, 641.

COUNCIL TO PERSONS APPOINTED ON FORESTALLING, 1778.

Gentlemen :

The honourable House of General Assembly having recommended to the serious attention of Council, the Petitions of sundry inhabitants of this city, presented and read in the house, praying the house would take into their Consideration the forestalling of Flour, &c., and also to cause offenders in that respect to be prosecuted according to law.—And it being a matter of great importance to the poor that the practice of forestalling be as much as possible prevented ; the Council, confiding in your attention to the interest of the people of this state in general, and that of the poor in particular, request that you will endeavour to obtain and transmit to Council as soon as may be, such facts relating to this matter as you shall be able to collect, and thereby enable them to act in this case according to the benevolent intention of the house. Authority for so doing is contained in the enclosed order of the house.

I am,

with the greatest respect, Gent.,

Your Very hm'ble servant.*

Indorsed.

To Gen^t appointed to enquire concerning Forestallers, and report,
Dec^r 10, 1778.

MEMORIAL OF RICHARD FOOTMAN, 1778.

To the Honourable the Supreme Executive Council of the State of
Pennsylvania.

The memorial and Petition of Richard Footman of Philadelphia,
Merchant Attorney in Fact of James Warren of the City of London,
Wine Merchant.

Humbley Sheweth,

That the said James Warren some years ago entered into a Co-partnership with Robert Hare then of the City of London for the erecting and carrying on a Porter Brewery in the City of Philadelphia to supply the Inhabitants of America with that useful Article.

That in Prosecution of their Plan the said Robert Hare came over to this City and expended a very large sum of money on their joint Account to establish such a Brewery.

That the present War breaking out shortly after, the intercourse between Great Britain and America was so much interrupted that

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 640.

the said James Warren could seldom hear from his said partner or be informed of the state of their concerns.

The large sums which he had Advanced and the uncertainty he was in respecting the manner in which the Business was carried on induced him in the Summer of last year to undertake a voyage to this Country, where he arrived about the time the British Army came to this City, that he spent the last Winter and Spring in examining into the State of their affairs and settling the Accounts thereof, which he completed as far as was in his power at that time, and in the month of June last left this City with an intention to proceed directly to England, and your Petitioner is informed and verily believes that he did soon after leave the Continent.

Your Petitioner from his own knowledge of the Conduct of the said James Warren as well as from his general character verily believes that his coming to this City at the time he did was not with an intention of joining the British Army or of Assisting them in the prosecution of the present War, nor does your petitioner know nor has ever heard that he did any way aid or assist them, his whole time being engaged in his own private Business.

Before his departure the said James Warren by Letters of Procuration duly executed, constituted and appointed your petitioner his Attorney to transact his Business in his absence.

Your Petitioner further begs leave to show your Honors that he has seen a proclamation issued from this Honorable Board by Virtue of An Act of Assembly entitled an Act for the Attainder of Divers Traitors if they render not themselves by a certain Day and for vesting their Estates in this Commonwealth, and for more effectually discovering the same, and for ascertaining & satisfying the lawful Debts and Claims thereon bearing date the Thirtieth day of October last past, Reciting that certain persons in the said Proclamation named had joined the British Army and requiring them to render themselves to the Chief Justice or some other Justice of this State on or before the fifteenth Day of this instant December, upon pain of being Attainted of High Treason, &c., In which said proclamation you Petitioner has discovered the name of James Warrell, Brewer. Your Petitioner should not have supposed his principal the said James Warren to have been the person intended thereby had he not been so informed."

Upon receiving this information your Petitioner thought the Duty he owed to his Constituent required him to take Council, which he did and was Advised to apply to your Honors upon the particular circumstances of the case.

And inasmuch as the said Act of Assembly could never have been intended to include Persons absent beyond the Seas, And this Honorable Board would not wish to attain any Person of so high a crime without giving him an opportunity of knowing that he was charged, and the said James Warren having left this Continent long before the Date of the said Proclamation, and as the said James Warren is

not described in the same by his Proper name, your Petitioner therefore saving to his said Constituent all and every benefit, and advantage which may arise to him by the misnomer aforesaid, and not admitting any thing which may operate against him.

Humbly prays your Honors,

That you will be pleased to take the circumstances of this case into your consideration, And if your Honors should think it a case of difficulty that you be pleased to permit your Petitioner to employ Council to appear before your Honors to shew further cause why the said Attainder should not take Place against your Petitioner, said Constituent, and that your Honors would be pleased to order a Nolle Prosequi to be entered thereupon, or that your Honors would Grant to your Petitioner's said Constituent such other Relief as the nature of his case according to Right and Justice shall seem to require.

And your Petitioner, &c.,

RICHARD FOOTMAN.

COUNCIL TO R. McCALISTER, 1778.

In Council,

Philadelphia, December 12, 1778.

Sir,

The exigency which on the 7th instant induced the Council to order out a part of the Militia of your County to escort the Convention troops being considerably lessened, it is agreed to countermand the order then given. You will therefore give the people of your County immediate notice hereof, that they may be as little incommoded by that order as possible. It will be proper for you to inform the Council as soon as may be what has been done, in consequence of the above mentioned order of the 7th instant.†

Directed,

Col. Ric^d McAllister, Lieut. of York County.

* Referred to in Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 641, laid on the table,

† See page 110.

THOS. SAVADGE TO COUNCIL, 1778.

Philadelphia, Dec'r 12, 1778.

S^r

I beg pardon for interrupting you so often, but necessity has no law. I have a family in Town, I have not one stick of wood for them to burn nor money to buy any or go to market; I have been here almost seven weeks waiting to know when I am to settle the ration bill & sundry other matters. I am considerable in advance for those rations and in debt for some, more than twelve months. I beg to know where I am to settle it, and that your Honor would order it paid, for my family cannot be wanting the Necessaries of life.

I am with all Due respect, y^r

Hon^{ble} most obedient humble Serv^t,

THOS. SAVADGE.

Directed,

To The Hon^{ble} Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the Honble Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

LT. SAML. HUNTER TO PRES. REED, 1778.

Sunbury, 13th December, 1778.

Sir,

Agreeable to the Resolve of Congress of the 8th of June last, and the instructions of Council of the 10th of same month to me, concerning Raising a Company in this County to continue in Service for Six Months from the date of their enlistments,—I immediately appointed the following Officers, Viz^t, James Murrey, Captain, Robert Arthur, Cap^t Lieutenant, Samuel Fulton, Second Lieutenant, William Reed, third Lieutenant, and Andrew Donaldson, Ensign, and give them Warrants agreeable to the orders I Received, dated the 17th June; this Company, tho' not Quite so compleat as should be, was of infinit service, as they were in General Good Woodsmen, and fit for the Service they were Employed in. I superintended this Company untill the first of August that Coll. Hartley came here to take the Command; their times is now most partly Expired, and Captain Murrey is gon to the Board of War with a Muster Roll of the Company Certified by me, to Receive their pay.

The Copy of the Resolve of Congress that I Received, mentions Eighty Dollars to Each man that shall provide himself with a Good

Rifle and Accoutrements, and this is the footing this Company is Raised upon. Yet it Answered a Good End, suppose there might be some Mistake in the Number of Dollars, for otherwise had it been Eight in place of Eighty, this Company would have fallen through, as the Company that was to be Raised in Lancaster county. I have known some of the men that paid thirty Pounds for a Good new Rifle, at the time they were enlisted in Murrey's Comp^y.

There is one thing I would be desirous to know of Council, Concerning the Guns and Blankets that has been Appraised in this County belonging to the Militia, that has from time to time been calld out into Actual Service, and some of them lost in Action, who is to pay for them, as no particular body is mentioned to defray this Expence, so that there is a great many of the Militia of this County wants their pay this twelve months past for Guns & Blankets, that is Certified to be lost in action by their Commanding Officers.

My Department in this County differs from any of the neighbouring Countys on Account of the Militia doing duty here, and they are troops that not Easy Governed, nor cannot be brought under due Subordination as Regular Troops is. I have had the first, second, third, & part of the fourth Classes of this County Militia doing duty this two Months past—and would be desirous to know, if Council will order any more out this Winter, or leave that as Occasion may Require, as they are all chiefly discharged at this present time, for it is not all the Militia of this or the three Neighbouring Countys that will deter the Indians from making Excursions against the Frontiers, and we need not Expect any Peace with them untill there is proper Expeditions Carried on against their Towns Early the Ensueing Spring, otherwise I dredd the consequences.

I am sorry at Coll. Hartley leaveing this County, for to do him Justice, he made the best use possible of what Troops was under his Command, for the protection of the Frontiers and the Good of the Country; last Month we were alarmed by Express from Wyoming of a large Body of Indians and Torys comeing down on the frontiers of this County, but when Coll. Hartley and myself Issued orders to the Inhabitants to Assemble at such & such places, I never see them turn out more spirited than they did on this Occasion to Guard the frontiers, and I am certain would fight, as severals of them that had leatly come back to the County told me they would Rather die fighting than leave their homes again, as their families suffered for want of the Necessaries of life while they were Absent from this County; and I belive it to be the case, (for the Generality of the People that has not Suffered by this Cruel Savage Warr that carried on by Indians & worse then Indians, the white people that has Joined them) turns their Backs upon the poor people that was obliged to fly and leave their all behind them.

In case there is not some ways and means fallen on to Relieve the distressed poor they must inevitably Suffer, as Grain is so dear and the Monopolizers and Forestallers is to blame, for I look upon

them to be worse than the Savages or any Enemy that's against us at this day, as the Necessaries of life cannot be so scarce in this State as some Bad People would have it.

I have the Honour to be, Sir,
Your most Obedt^t Humble Serv^t,

SAML. HUNTER, Lieut N. C.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philadelphia.

WM. SCOTT TO PRES. REED, 1778.

York, December 14th, 1778.

May it Please your Excellency:

I rec^d your favour of the seventh instant, & Mr. Lilley, on Friday last, and by him sent the inclos^d, who promised to deliver it the same day to Col. M^cCallister. I shall at all times be happy on receiving your Commands, which shall be cheerfully Obey'd by one who begs leave to subscribe himself,

Your Excellency's
most Obedient humble Serv^t,

WM. SCOTT.

REPORT ON STATE OF TREASURY, 1778.

Tuesday, Decem. 15th, 1778.

There is at present in the Treasury £20,000, part of 620,000 Dollars or Continental Tax, and no other kind of money. About £6000 of this money has already been paid on Warrants of Congress, and £4000 on an Order of Council.

DAV'D RITTENHOUSE, Treasurer.

The Hon^{ble} the Supreme Executive Council.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO PRESIDENT REED, 1778.

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, 17th December, 1778.

Sir,

To prevent as far as possible the intercourse between the inhabitants of these States and the Enemy in New York, I have given positive orders to General Maxwell, who commands at Elizabeth Town, to permit no persons, inhabitants of or coming from any of the States, to pass to Staten Island or New York without permission has been first obtained from their respective Governors or legislative Authorities. This will relieve the commanding officer from the difficulty, which he must otherwise be under, of discriminating between all designing persons, and those who are proper to be intrusted within the enemy's lines: But as a too frequent passage of Flag Boats is attended with many inconveniences, I could wish that as many as possible, of those who obtain leave, might be sent at one time. For instance if it shall be determined that Boats will only be permitted to pass the first of every Month (except in extraordinary cases) they may suit their Business to that time and attend accordingly.

If you approve of the above plan be pleased to signify your concurrence, and I will give orders to Gen^l Maxwell to carry it into execution. I am the more desirous of falling upon some such mode as the foregoing, as, when I was lately at Elizabeth Town, I found the intercourse so common that it alarmed and gave umbrage to the well affected in that neighbourhood.

I have the honour to be

with the greatest Regard

Your Excellency's

most ob^t Serv^t,G^o WASHINGTON.*Directed,*His Excellency Gov^r Reed.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 650. See answer, p. 127.

MARINE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT REED, 1778.

Marine Committee, Philad^a Dec. 17, 1778.

Sir,

In Pursuance of the Direction of Congress and the Request of the Minister Plenipotentiary of France, I have the Honor of transmitting to your Excellency a Declaration under the Hand & Seal of that Minister promising a Reward to every Vessel that may take or destroy any Vessel of the Enemy loaded with Masts or Spars & destin'd for the Ports of Helifax, Newport or New York.

It is the particular desire of the Minister that this Declaration may be addressed to your Excellency, to the End that it may be made known in such Manner as your Wisdom shall direct.

I am with every Sentiment of Regard,
your Excellency's most obedient
and very humble Serv^t,
By order of the Committee,
SAM^l ADAMS, Chairman.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

J. MORRIS, JR., TO PRESIDENT REED, 1778.

Sir,

I do myself the Honor to Inclose you Gen^l Sullivan's Letter & Capt. Lange Memorial of the 24th Aug^t last agreeable to your desire.

I am Y^r Excellency's
most Obed^t &c.,
J. MORRIS, Jr.

1 o'clock—Dec. 18, 1778.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 646.

COL. THOMAS PROCTOR TO PRESIDENT REED, 1778.

Philadelphia, December the 19th, 1778.

May it please your Excellency—

I beg leave to lay before you a few matters that regard the Battalion of Artillery of this Commonwealth and the provision necessary to be made for its Establishment of Men and Cloathing—hoping it will meet your Approbation.

1st I Claim the honour of having Enlisted the first Company appointed to be raised by the Council of this Commonwealth in October 1775.

2nd It is hoped Notwithstanding our being call'd into the field in November 1776 to act as Continental Troops for the General Good, that we be not excluded from the advantages that ought to derive to us from the State to which we belong.

3rd Provided the Battallion of Artillery be credited to the Quota of this Commonwealth, ought not the Officers and men be furnish'd with the Stipend of Cloathing as granted to the rest of her Troops, as well to be furnish'd with monies to fill the Battallion with its proper Complement of men.

4th That the honourable the Executive Council of this Commonwealth take into their Serious consideration a resolve of Congress bearing date September the third, 1778, in favour of said Battallion that the same may be admitted and Inroll'd among the number of her Troops according to Seniority, and that the Several Officers be promoted to the vacancies that have fell in said Battallion from July 1777 to the date of the annex'd List of Officers, as are therein inserted.

5th That the honourable house take knowledge of the distress of the Officers of said Battallion, their want of Cloathing and direct measures suitable to their present Necessities.

I am, With due respect,

Your Excellencies Obedient

and Most Humble Serv^t,

THOS. PROCTOR Colonel P. A.

Directed,

The Honourable Joseph Reed Esq^r, President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

ALEX. WILCOCKS TO TIMOTHY MATLACK, 1778.

Philada., Dec. 20th, 1778.

Sir,

I received last Night an Extract from the Minutes of the Hon'ble Executive Council, dated the 17th Inst.,* which I presume relates to the Salt purchased by Mr. Wm. McMurtrie and myself.† Mr. McMurtrie is not in Town—I beg the Favour that you will inform the Hon'ble Council, That Mr. John Wilcocks and I, who are the present Owners of the Salt, (that remains unsold,) will cheerfully attend them at any hour they shall appoint for an Enquiry into the Matter, which I have the Pleasure to understand from the Manner in which the order is worded, will prevent their taking any Measures to possess themselves of the Salt.

I am Sir, Your Most Obedient

Humble Serv't,

ALEX. WILCOCKS.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Sec'y of the Hon'le the Exec'tve Council of Pennsylvania.

MEMORIAL OF WIDOW, &c. OF JOHN ROBERTS, 1778.

To the President & Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

The Memorial of Jane Roberts, Widow of John Roberts, and her Nine Children, Thomas, Jehu, Hannah, Sarah, Mary, Jane, Thamzin, Elizabeth & Ann,
Respectfully Sheweth,

That on the 23d of November, they presented two Petitions to the House of Assembly, the Prayer of which was in the following Words: "The Request which with Submission we now make to this House, is to restore to our afflicted Mother the Dower she was by Law entitled to, and to grant to us their Children the Inheritance we had a Right to expect, and which no act of ours has contributed to forfeit." And the same being read by direction of the House, the following Entry was made on the Minutes, viz.: "A Petition from Jane Roberts, Widow of the late John Roberts, deceased, enclosing a Petition from her nine Children, praying the attention of the House to their distressed case, were read and ordered to lie on the Table." And not having been

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 645, 654.

† See Archives, Vol. VI. p. 708-754.

read a second time, or dismissed at the first, the Memorialists presume the Business lies over for the Consideration of the next Session. And as the Day appointed for the sale of the principal part of the said Estate will take place before the said meeting of Assembly, the Memorialists request as a Favour of the President and Executive Council, that they will be pleased to give Directions for postponing the said sale until such time as the Assembly shall have given a final answer to their Petition, which from the Nature of the case they flatter themselves might be favourable; and as the Delay cannot be any Detriment to the Publick, the Memorialists have the more Reason to hope their Request may be granted, being fully persuaded that the House as Guardians of the Rights of every Individual, will not reject the second Reading of a Petition which asks for an act of Clemency towards Persons against whom no Crime is alledged.*

Jane Roberts,
Thomas Roberts,
Jehu Roberts,
Hannah Price,
Sarah Thomas,

Mary Hunter,
Jane Roberts, Junr,
Thamzin Roberts,
Elizabeth Roberts,
Ann Roberts.

COL. THOMAS PROCTOR TO PRESIDENT REED, 1778.

Philadelphia, December the 21st, 1778.

Sir,

Major Forrest having acquainted me, that on waiting on you with my papers of the 19th,† that you were somewhat offended, supposing that undue measures had been undertaken in procuring the then inclosed Resolves of Congress, of Sept. 3d. In order therefore to remove suspicions of my having acted in such a manner, out of a line of my duty, shall for your better information do myself the pleasure of submitting two Letters for your perusal. Copies, one sent to the Board of War, and one to Congress, the former of which was handed by the Board of War to Congress, which probably was the means of that Resolve being passed. But previous to either of these Letters I wrote one to the Honourable the Executive Council to the same effect, and not receiving any answer thereto but verbal from Col. Matlack, and not officially, was my reason for seeking means in another channel to augment my Battallion, purely the purpose of [my being sent here in June from Head Quarters. It has also been said by a member of the house, that I have been heard to say I never would leave the State again with my Battallion, and that by such profession some members

* See pages 21-

† See page 121.

were prejudiced to my disadvantage. I remember in discourse with Colonel Bayard, on his Interrogating me with respect to a supposed difference between me and the Commander of the Artillery, that I delivered myself to him in some such words, but it proceeded from a different Impulse of mind to which the Colonel Imputed it; and give me leave to assure you, that I have oft Complained against my folly in giving the preference to a Continental Commission before that of the State, and as a farther Indication of my not being duly understood by Col. Bayard, that General Cadwallader may be asked the question, the message I beg'd him to deliver his Excellency General Washington before the battle of Monmouth, anxious to join the grand army, believing Laurels were ready to be shared, was unhappy to be absent; the same request I made to General Arnold when our Troops lay at White plains, & that a part of my Battallion at least might be permitted to join his Excellency; which I would command, leaving the residue for the defence of this City. In short, I can say with truth I have ever obeyed the orders of my superiors with becoming alacrity, and none can charge me with not having strictly done my duty. I exceedingly lament that my Battallion have so much cause of complaint and their necessities so little attended to, especially as the loss has fall'n on me to remonstrate when it is necessary in their behalf. The act of laying before you the promotions due to my officers, conceived to be a duty Incumbent on me to prevent their repeated complaints, leaving the issue and determination to those whom it concerned to adjust—and as to an Insidious report of Rations being drawn for more men than actually were contained in the Battallion, it is without foundation, utterly false, and no man dare to assert it.

I am, your Excellency's

Obed't and most h'ble serv't,

THOM'S PROCTOR.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the Hon'ble the Executive Council, Philadelphia.

* See answer, Dec. 31, page 135.

COUNCIL TO GOV. JOHN MORRIS, GOV. OF MD., 1778.

In Council,

Philada, Decr 21st, 1778.

Sir,

A transcript of the late act of assembly, intituled an act to prohibit for a limited time the making of Whiskey & other spirit from Wheat, Rye or any other sort of Grain, or from Meal or flour, properly authenticated, being wanted for the information of the Governor of Maryland; the Legislature of that State having passed a similar Law,* to have operation in case this State, Delaware & Virginia concur in the prohibition. You are therefore desired as soon as possible to furnish me with the same, in order that the request of his Excellency Governor Johnston may be complied with. Other Copies will be proper to send to the Governors of Virginia & New Jersey, & the Presid^t of Delaware.

The minutes of Assembly direct the publication of their Resolves of the 28th of November last concerning a convention to be published in the News-papers, for one month. It is not necessary to remind you of this generally, but I recommend that they be inserted in the Newspapers published in Trenton & Baltimore, as they have a circulation through some of our counties, perhaps superior to those of this City.

Council are of opinion, that publication of the instructions to Delegates of this State of the 30th Nov^r last, as they respect the settlement of the claims of Connecticut & Virginia, & foreign Alliances, would be useful.

JOSEPH REED, President.

P. S. The Express from Annapolis returns at 2, afternoon.

Directed,

To His Excellency John Morris, Governor of the State of Maryland.

ROBERT MORRIS TO COUNCIL, 1778.

Philada. Decr 23d, 1778.

Gent^l,

I delivered to your order in August last 314 muskets, 800 Gun locks & 1000 Gun screws, being part of a larger parcell that were shipped by Mr. John Ross for account of the State, in a ship that was blown of the Coast last Fall & put into Cape Francois were the Cargo was landed; the quantity on board that ship was 1000 muskets

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 647.

for this state & 500 intended for the State of Maryland. In landing & storing at the Cape, many of the Chests were broke and the arms became mixed, so that it cannot be distinguished which were for that or which for this state, for this reason I delivered to Pennsylvania $\frac{1}{2}$ ds of what did arrive before, & shall do the same with the rest as they come to hand. I have now rec'd 250 muskets more of these parcells & am ready to deliver to your order 167 of them. I paid the freight of the last parcell from the Cape agreeable to the inclosed bill £462. 12s. of the freight of 167 muskets valued at £9 $\frac{3}{4}$ is £1603 at 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ ct is £160. 6. 0., so that the freight of both parcells amount to £622. 18s., this Curr'y, and I presume you will think it right to grant me an order on the Treasurer for this sum; the former parcell were valued by Wm. Henry of Lancaster & James Pearson at £9 or 24 Doll^r each, & that price the Board of war paid me for those intended for Maryland, consequently the freight was charged on the proper value, the present parcell were they to be valued I suppose would be set higher as every thing else has risen, but being myself part owner of the vessels that brought on these muskets, I do not wish to raise the freights. I will continue to give orders for bringing over the remainder of these arms as fast as I can find opportunities to take them in on fr^t.

And with great respect,

I remain Gent^l

your obed. hble Serv^t,

ROB'T MORRIS.*

Directed,

To His Ex'cy the President & Honble Council of Pennsylvania.

State of Pennsylvania,

To the Owners of Brig^t Retaliation, Dr.

1778, Sept ^r .	For the freight of 314 muskets Imported in said Brig ^t	
	from Cape Nicola Mole & delivered to Cap ^t Jos.	
	Stiles, $\frac{3}{4}$ his rec ^t , valued by Mess ^{rs} Wm. Henry &	
	James Pearson at £9 $\frac{3}{4}$ is . . .	£2826
	800 Gun Locks, @ 45s, . . .	1800 0
		£4626 0

Freight of the above $\frac{3}{4}$ Bill of Lading & Custom at	
10 $\frac{3}{4}$ ct is	£462 12

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 653.

GEN. WASHINGTON TO PRESIDENT REED, 1778.

Sir,

I had not the honor of receiving your Excellency's favor of yesterday till late in the evening. I am very sensible of the high mark of esteem and attention intended me by the Supreme Executive Council, and I shall be happy to receive the honor of their visit at 11 o'clock this morning.

I thank you for the polite manner in which you have been pleased to convey their desire for that purpose, and I beg leave to assure you of the perfect Esteem and Respect with which I am,

Your Excellency's

most ob^t Serv^t,G^o WASHINGTON.Chestnut Street, 24th Decem^r, 1778.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, 1778.

The President of Congress presents his compliments to the President of the State, and sends him by M^r James Trumbull twelve Commissions for private vessels of war, with an equal number of Bonds & Instructions.

Philadelphia, 24 Dec^r, 1778.*Directed.*

His Excellency the President of the State of Pennsylvania.

PRES'T OF COUNCIL TO GEN. WASHINGTON, 1778.

Sir,

The Council of this State have been favoured with your Excell^ys Letter of the 17th* Inst, proposing to regulate the Intercourse between the Inhabitants of these States & the Enemy at New York, so as that Flag Boats may pass at stated Periods only. In answer to which I have now the Honour to acquaint your Excell^y that this Board entirely approve thereof & as soon as the Times are fixed & the Regulations communicated will grant their licences conformably.

* See page 119.

This Board having been authorized by the late Assembly to supply the troops with certain enumerated articles at a Price more proportioned to their Pay, than the present rates, we should be much obliged to your Excellency to be informed in what Manner other States have conducted this Business, what checks there are upon the Issues, & upon the issuing Officer, & what allowance is made him? whether the Officers of the State direct the Issues when the articles are delivered at Camp, or the military Gentlemen do it.

Our wishes to promote the comfort & satisfaction of the Troops will we trust apologize to your Excell'y for giving you this trouble, as we are anxious to forward the supplies & put the Issues on the most satisfactory Footing.

I have the Honor to be

with very great Respect,

Your Excell'y most.

obed. Hble. Serv't.*

Indorsed,

Dec. 26th, 1778, To His Excellency General Washington.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1778.

In Congress, Dec^r 26, 1778.

A letter of 21 from Abraham Clark, esq., of New Jersey was read enclosing affidavits respecting the conduct of brig. Maxwell in resisting a writ of habeas Corpus.

Ordered that the same be referred to a com^{ee} of three.

Jan'y 2, 1779.

The com^{ee} to whom was referred the letter from A. Clark respecting the conduct of brig^r Maxwell brought in a report.

Jan'y 30, 1779.

Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on† the letter from Mr. A. Clark respecting the conduct of brig. Maxwell after debate,

Ordered, That the farther consideration thereof be postponed to Monday.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

* See answer p. 129.

† See page 128.

GEN. WASHINGTON TO PREST. REED, 1778.

Philadelphia, Dec^r 27th, 1778.

Sir,

I have had the Honor to receive Your Excellency's Letter of Yesterday*—and I am extremely sorry that it is not in my power to inform the Council with precision, in the several points of their inquiry. The State supplies of cloathing hitherto sent to camp, have been but small and partial. These I believe have been generally issued by officers appointed by the respective States, and conformably to their instructions. It is probable the General officers of their line have had some direction in the matter to promote a fair and proper distribution. I am equally at a loss as to the prices at which the goods have been furnished, but have heard that they were moderate and reasonable, nor can I tell what allowances have been made the issuing officers. I would take the liberty to add that there is a Gentleman now in the city, a Mr. Moss, who has some Stores under his care from Virginia, for the use of her Troops. It is more than probable if your Excellency and the Council should judge it material that you may without difficulty derive from him information both of the manner and the terms on which the delivery of the articles in his hands is conducted.

I have the honor to be

with great esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's most

obed. & most hum. Serv^t,G^d WASHINGTON.*Directed,*

His Excellency Jos. Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

L. SPROGELL TO PRESIDENT REED, 1778.

Philadelphia, Dec^r 29ⁿ, 1778.

Sir,

I returned from Lancaster yesterday, where I muster'd the Guard of the Convention Troops, and now have the Honour to inclose you a return thereof. I take this opportunity to inform you I have not received any pay since 26th November, 1777. At the same time beg leave further to inform you that the first of January, 1777, my pay was raised to Colonels—Less than that was then

* See page 127.

thout inadequate to my Services, Since which everything has risen to an extravagant price. The pay is not at present nor has it been for a considerable time past sufficient for the Maintenance of an Officer with a family, and the Expence of Travelling is still more extravagant; the last Journey, being out fifteen days, cost me upwards of forty five pounds. I request your Excellency with the Honorable Council will please to take the premises into consideration and grant me such further allowance as you may think proper and order me payment—I must assure you I am now much in want of money.

I have been withheld from making this application a great while from the Consideration of hearing a general complaint of the want of Cash in the Treasury.*

I am your Excellencys and

The Honorable Councils

Most Obedient

Very hum. Serv^t

LOD'K SPROGELL, M. M. G. of P.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of Pennsylvania.

PROCLAMATION OF PARDON TO PRISONERS UNDER TEST LAWS, 1778.

The Supreme executive Council of Pennsylvania To all to whom these Presents shall come greeting.

Whereas, by virtue & in Pursuance of sundry laws of this Common Wealth heretofore passed & enacted for the better security of the Government thereof divers Persons have been apprehended & in due Course of Law committed to Prison having been convicted of pertinaciously refusing to take the several Oaths or Affirmations required by the ~~the~~ Laws from the Subjects of this State & many of the Persons so charged & convicted do now remain in several of the Prisons of this State. And Whereas by Act of Assembly passed at the last Sessions & dated the fifth Day of Decem^r last intituled a farther Supplement to the act intituled an act for the better Security of Government, all the Pains, Penalties & Disabilities imposed by any former acts of Assembly (except those of electing & being elected or appointed to any office or Place of Trust or Profit or serving on Juries) were declared from thenceforth to cease & determine; now know y^e that the Supreme Executive Council of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania duly considering the Nature, Purport &

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 555.

Tendency of the s^d act of Assembly & also the Circumstances & situation of the s^d Prisoners Have pardoned, remitted & released & by these Presents do pardon, remit & release unto the s^d Parties & every of them so standing charged & convicted as af^t, by whatsoever Name or Names they may be called or known, all & every, the s^d crime or offence of Recusancy as af^t, & all Punishments, Pains & Penalties inflicted by any of the s^d Laws, or any Judgment of any Court of Laws thereupon, other than any Fine or Fines duly imposed by any of the s^d Court or Courts of Law in this Commonwealth. And do, by these Presents, hereby supersede all Warrants or orders of Commitment, or Detainers whatsoever, heretofore issued by any Court, Justice of Peace or other Persons in Authority, under this Commonwealth, except as herein before mentioned. And all Sheriffs, Coroners, Under Sheriffs, Gaolers & others, are hereby authorized & required, on payment of Prison Fees & other Fees, to enlarge and set at Liberty all Persons committed or detained by Reason of the Premises for which this shall be your sufficient Warrant. Being not willing that the s^d Recusants or any of them shall be farther molested by any Sheriff, Justice, Bailiff, or other our Ministers or Successors, or be aggrieved or disturbed in any thing, by occasion of the Premises, except for any fines as herein before ment^d. And being also willing that their Letters Patents (as to all & singular, the Premises aforementioned) be & remain good, firm, valid & effectual in Law, altho' the Crime & Offences af^t be not fully set forth, & that Release, Remission & Exoneration of all & every the s^d Recusants be in all Courts within this Common Wealth & elsewhere interpreted & adjudged in the most favourable sense for their more sure Discharge & also be pleaded & allowed in all the s^d Courts without any other Writ, Grant or Declaration in that Behalf obtained or to be obtained. Any Defect or Defects in these Letters Patent contained, or any Act, Ordinance, Provision, Proclamation or Restriction or any other Thing, Cause or Matter whatsoever to the contrary hereof, in any wise notwithstanding. In testimony whereof we have, &c.

Indorsed,

1778, December 29th, Pardon to all persons who have been confined in Gaol agreeable to the Test laws.

GEN'L J. MCINTOSH TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Fort Pitt, 29th. December, 1778.

Dear Sir,

As I have given the particulars of an Expedition to our friend, General Armstrong, by Colo. Bayard, I beg leave to refer you to him, & shall only inform you, that notwithstanding the season was so late, that we could not get a sufficiency of supplies, & the men

so Tedious before they came & Joined me, with many other Difficulties I had to encounter; I erected a good strong Fort for the Reception & Security of Prisoners & stores, upon the Indian side of Ohio below Beaver Creek, with Barracks for a Regiment; and another upon the Muskingum River, where Colo. Bocquette had one formerly near Tuscorawas, about 100 Miles West of this place, which I expect will keep the Savages in aw, & Secure the peace of the frontiers effectually in this quarter hereafter if they are well supported, & also facilitate any future Enterprises that may be attempted that way. But I must observe to you, that all the Militia I had were from the State of Virginia, & none from Pennsylvania, nor would they be of any Service if they were willing, & had Joined me, as your present Militia Law, I understand, allows them, or, which comes to the same thing, does not oblige them to serve above two Months, one half of which will commonly be taken up in collecting them together & the other half with Inconveniences, Disappointments, &c., always incident to Expeditions carried on to any Distance, will not enable them to perform near the march, before they are for returning home again; & one may as well attempt stopping the current of a River, as Militia when their times are out.

I mention this Inconveniency of your Militia Law as it now stands, to you, Sir, in hopes that you will endeavour to have it altered as soon as possible, at least before we are ready for a Campaign in the Spring; that if any advantage or Honor is acquired by it, your State may have its share: it suffers as much, or more than any other from the Incursions of the Savages, therefore your own Interest, & Justice to the sufferers, as well as the reputation of the State demands every possible assistance to retaliate & oblige their repeated Barbarities and Ravages upon the poor helpless & peaceable Inhabitants of your Country. & in my humble opinion, without a Law is framed to oblige y^e to serve for six Months (if so long required) from the time they all appear at the place appointed by a Commanding officer for them to rendezvous, & be made more Coercive, or until relieved by another Draft if there should be occasion; it will answer no valuable purpose. And should it be objected that this would be an Infringement upon their Liberty, let such Law continue or be in force only in such circumstances as we are now in, or at least until the Savages are subdued & our frontiers safe. I find there is an unhappy contest for Territory Subsisting here between your State & Virginia, in which I have carefully avoided interfering or having the least concern in, as it was out of my power to remedy it, altho' often applied to by both sides, and only mention it now, to observe & Submit it to you, if any part of your Claim should be conquered without your assistance whether it would not weaken your pretensions, & add proportionable force to those who gave the greatest help towards it. But I will submit these Reasonings to the Wisdom of your Legislature, & hope you will not think it Impertinent or Improper in my present situation that I request you to propose this

alteration to them, as I know & have experienced it to be necessary in the present critical situation of this Department.

With every mark of Respect,

I have the honor to be, D^r Sir,

Your most ob^t Hble Serv^t,

LACH^r MCINTOSH,

Command^r west of the Monos.

The bearer Col^o De Cambray has accompanied me since I have been here, & can give any information required respecting the circumstances of this department, he is a Gentlemen of real Merit, & beg Leave to introduce him to your acquaintance.

Directed,

Public Service.

The Honble George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Favoured by Colo. Cambray.

PETER DE HAVEN TO COUNCIL, 1778.

To the Honorable the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

Understanding that Council Judge it not necessary to continue the Gun Factory any longer at the expence of the State. We the subscribers having consulted each other, have agreed, (that as there is a quantity of materials and Artificer's tools on hand, and tolerable good shop for working, as also a number of workmen that have continued with us since the Institution, who, if the Factory should be broke up, will be thrown out of business in this inclement season,) to take it into Co-partnership, Provided that the Council, from a consideration of our unwearied endeavours to serve the Publick for these Three years past in this department, and the expensiveness of living, shall be induced to let us have it on the following Terms, Viz.

1st That you will allow us the materials now on hand at the first cost.

2^d That in case you allow us the Materials, you will take the new guns we may make of the Barrels now on hand at the rate they have been hitherto charged, viz., £10 each.

3^d That you will, in preference to any other workmen, allow us the repairs of such State Guns as may require to be done.

4 That in case of any future Invasion of the State by the Enemy,

whether Council will impower us to impress waggons for the purpose of removing the Materials.

If, Gentlemen, the above proposals should be agreeable to you, we will endeavour to have an Invoice of the Materials, made out to lay before you as soon as possible. The whole is submitted to your consideration, by, Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient Humble Servants,

PETER DE HAVEN,
BENJ^N RITTENHOUSE,
H. DE HAVEN.*

December the 11th, 1778.

COUNCIL TO FIRE COMPANIES, 1778.

Council Chamber, Dec. 29, 1778.

The President & Council having considered the very great danger to which the City is exposed by Accidents of Fire at this Severe Season, the unprovided State of the Inhabitants with Regard to the Fire Engines, Buckets, &c., do most earnestly recommend it to the Citizens to revive the laudable Institutions of Fire Companies which former Experience has proved to be so beneficial, & in the mean Time this Board will take such farther Measures for the Security of the City and its Inhabitants against this Calamity as present Circumstances will admit.

COUNCIL TO DELEGATES IN CONGRESS, 1778.

Philada, Dec. 31st, 1778.

Sir,

The Council observe with great concern that since the late appointment of Delegates in Congress this State is seldom represented by more than two Delegates, and sometimes only by one, which is attended with great inconvenience to the Continent in general, and prejudice to this State in particular.†

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 641.

† See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI. p. 649. This paper is apparently unfinished.

PRES. REED TO COL. THOMAS PROCTOR, 1778.

Sir,

I received your favour with the enclosures*, which I have perused and shall lay before the Council. When the Gentlemen of your regiment applied for the stopping the cloathing ordered on to the Army, it became necessary to consider in what relation it stood to the State, and how the other regiments of Artillery raised in other States were considered. This led to some of the observations which I communicated to Major Forrest, and I might have added that it was observed that applications were only made to the State when some favour was to be asked, for the authority or direction of the State did not seem to be noticed on any occasion. This is a situation neither honorable for the Council, beneficial to the publick, nor proper for the Gentlemen themselves, who lose solid advantages for mere empty gratifications. Two Instances occurred in this very business, the first in your having applied to Congress to make so important a Change of your battalion without consulting this Council or authority of this State on the subject, and the other of a general promotion of all the officers on the death of Lieutenant Col^d. Strobogh,—Whereas, by the resolutions of Congress no promotions should take place but thro' the authority of the State, or in special cases immediately by the Commander in Chief or Congress. Major Forests merit is too well known to suppose that the objection is to him, but if we do not make it in the case of a good officer, we shall be charged with partiality if we make it in any. I shall therefore frankly declare that I did not think a proper respect had been paid to the authority of the State in delivering me a list of all the promoted officers, without taking the least notice of us in the matter, and this in the absence of the Commander in Chief, and without any special appointment of Congress. You must not therefore be surprised that if passing us by on other occasions, when the favours of the State are dispensed, we should take the occasion to express our notice of the slight, and intimate to you that you may be in danger of being passed by too, for tho' we are tender of your rights we are not insensible of our own.

The defective state of the regiment when it was lately called into service to go to Egg-Harbour, I spoke of by respect, tho' the Board of War on a late occasion confirmed it. While we considered you as belonging to the Continent, we did not deem ourselves bound to intermeddle, but if you chuse to be considered as of our quota, and under a participation of the advantages of such troops, we shall expect you to submit to our direction so far as to ascertain the number of men, officers, &c*, that equal Justice may be done to the other troops.

* See page 128.

I think it right to observe that it was a member of Council who reported the conversation said to have passed at the valley forge, and not Colonel Bayard. I am glad to find he is mistaken.

I have now only to add that from my connections with the army it must be supposed their interests will ever meet with my care and attention, but I must also observe that heretofore there has been in too many Instances a want of attention to the authority of the State which I hope in future will not happen, for unless some reason or objection should occur which at present I am not acquainted with, I will endeavour to have the resolve of Congress in your favour recognized, which it never has been by the State, and entitle you to all the benefits of a regiment on the line. But I think it would be done in the most proper manner by a respectfull application to the Council for that purpose. I have sent you enclosed a resolve of Congress upon the subject of promotion in case of Vacancy, which will be communicated to the whole Penna^a line, and I hope conformed to in future for the mutual benefit and honour of the State and Army.

I am, Sir, with duo regard,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

JOSEPH REED.

COUNCIL TO NEWSPAPER PRINTERS, 1779.

Philad^a, January 1st, 1779.

Sir,

I am directed by the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, to request, that you will please to forward to them Your Paper weekly, beginning with the present year. The Council wish to have them forwarded in such manner as to afford the best chance of their having their files compleat. The terms of payment will be complied with agreeable to your order.

I am, with due respect,

Your very humble Servant,

T. M.*

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI. p. 654.

GEN. ROBERDEAU TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Congress, Jan^y 1st, 1779.

Sir,

The proceedings of Congress respecting the Hon^{ble} Chief Justice McKean and General Thomson are ordered to be made out immediately, and shall be furnish to The Hon^{ble} The Council, agreeable to their desire, signified in a Letter from you to the Delegates of this state of yesterday's date, with which they are just now honored. I am, with the Comp^{ts} of the season, Sir,

Y^r most ob. & very

hum. ser.,

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.*

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

MR. HOLKER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, y^e 4th January, 1779.

Sir,

The present will be presented to you by my Servant Jones, who has, by his vigilance, discovered the robbers who have carried off the flour left in my cellar. I request that your Excellency will please to give the necessary Directions, so as the men secured may be duly punished. It is possible that by them, many other thieves, & their correspondents, may be discovered, I therefore think it my duty to submit the matter to your Excellency's better judgment, who's advice & directions I shall gratefully follow on this or any other occasion.

I remain, with due respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

& verry humble Servant,

HOLKER.

Directed,

His Excellency Jos. Reed, Esquire, President of the State.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 659.

REPORT TO CONGRESS IN CASE OF GEN. MAXWELL, 1779.

The Committee to whom was Referred the letter from Abraham Clark, Esq^r, & the Depositions inclos'd therein, beg leave to report,

That it appears to your Committee that Brigd^r Gen^l Maxwell is charged on Oath with misdemeanor, w^{ch} amounts to a high Contempt of the Civil Authority of the state of New Jersey, but that the testimony is ex parte.

That the tryal shou'd be by the powers declar'd Competent by the Laws of New Jersey as the offence is supposed to be committed.

Whereupon your Committee are of opinion that Gen^l Washington be directed to order another Officer to the Command on w^{ch} Gen^l Maxwell now is, & to order Gen^l Maxwell to remain in the state of New Jersey, without any particular Command, until the further order of Congress; & that Gen^l Washington give notice thereof to the Governor of the said State.

Your Committee are of opinion that it would be premature to take any other Resolution relative to Gen^l Maxwell until the Issue of a legal Trial by his Country shall be known.

M^r Duane, M^r Burk & M^r Fell.

Indorsement.

Jan^y 2^d, 1779. Report of Committee of Congress in the case of Gen^l Maxwell.*

 PRESIDENT REED TO PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS, 1779.

Sir,

The very great Respect which I have, both in a publick & private Character, for the Hon. Board at which you preside, as well as Veneration for the State to whose Services & Sufferings America is so much indebted, have induced me to address you by the Hands of the Hon. Mr. Temple, & to state some Particulars, which may elucidate the Conduct pursued by Persons in Auth^y here with Respect to that Gentleman. As his Views of Busines seemed wholly directed to the Hon. Congress, I had only the Favour of a Visit from him, & not being within to receive it, had no Communication of the very honourable Testimonials which he had brought from his native State. The Suspicions & Rumors which circulated very freely for some Time, occasioned a very general Caution & Diffidence, but, I believe, attended with no Act of disrespect; & in this Train Matters would probably have continued without any public Notice of Mr. Temple on the Part of the State. But, on the 14th Inst., a Committee of Congress communicated to me, as President of the State, the enclosed

* See page 128.

Resolve, stating at the same time that Mr Temple was considered by that honourable Body as an Object of that Resolve, & requesting me to cooperate with them to carry it into effect.

In order that it might be done with the greatest Attention to Mr Temple's Feelings, I sent the Secretary of the Council to wait on him & request his Company at my own House, on the Evening of the 18th. There, two of the Committee, The Hon. Mr Drayton & Mr. McKean also attended, Mr. Duane declining being present—The Vice President of this State & Secretary being also present: the Gentlemen from Congress entered into a very free Conference with Mr. Temple with respect to his remain^g so long in England, the Circumstances of his Return to this Country, & his Visit to this City; which terminated in an Intimation on their Part that the public Interests would be but advanced by shortening his Residence at the seat of Congress.

Having only in View, Sir, to show my respectful Attention to your Board in Consequence of the Recommendations then first produced to me by Mr. Temple, it is not for me to determine upon the Propriety or Impropriety of this Transaction. Congress, as the supreme Council of America, must be supposed the most competent Judges of those Measures which the publick Interests require, & when they call for the Aid of the Executive Authority of the State, we esteem it an indispensable Duty to cooperate with them, & hope upon the present occasion it has been done with a very tender Regard to the Honour of a Sister State, & the personal Feelings of the Gentleman concerned.

I am, with very
great Respect, Sir,
Your most Obed. &
very Hbble. serv.,
JOS. REED.

Indorsed.

1779, January 2^d. Letter to the Presed. of Council of Massachusetts Bay.

GEORGE HENRY TO COUNCIL, 1779.

His Excellency, the President, & Council,

Agreeable to your orders,* a Number of the vessels, &c., the property of this State, are disposed of, part of the moneys arising therefrom I have paid to the Treasurer, the remainder I expect to receive in a few days, when I shall furnish Council with an acc^t of the sales.

I should have advertised & proceeded to the Sale of the Shop & Tools belonging to the State Gun Factory, but upon viewing of them

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., pp. 688, 641.

was clearly of opinion that they can be disposed of to more advantage at private than publick sale. The reasons on w^h I found this Opinion can be better understood if they are given personally than communicated in a letter.

I take this opportunity of returning my thanks to Council for *this*, as well as the appointment of Commissary of Naval Stores; the Execution of w^h Offices I flatter myself will meet with their approbation.

I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

GEORGE HENRY.

January the 4th, 1779.

Directed,

To His Excellency, the President & Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

JAMES DUNDAS &C., TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Philada., Janu'y 4th, 1779.

It appears to the subscribers that there is now due to the Artificers, Labourers, &c., employed at Billingsport & Red Bank in the Year 1777, and for Materials for the use of said Fortifications, not less than One thousand five hundred Pounds; but as all the Bills for Materials are not come in we cannot form an exact Estimate.

JAMES DUNDAS, P. M.,

ROBERT CATHER, Cl^k.

To the Honourable, the Supreme Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

PRESIDENT REED TO DELEGATES IN CONGRESS, 1779.

In Council,

Philada., Jan'y 4, 1779.

Gentlemen :

An election for choosing a representative in General Assembly for the city of Philadelphia comes on to-morrow, and the laws require that it be held at the State House, which will render the sitting of Congress in the room they now occupy not only inconvenient to Congress but also to the Inspectors and Judges of the Election.

This you will please to represent in Congress, and, if you shall think proper to mention that the Assembly room is at the service of Congress for that day, should they choose to adjourn there.

I am, with due respect,

Your very humble servant,

J. R., Pres't.

Hon'ble delegates of Pennsylvania, in Congress.

COUNCIL TO HONORABLE JAMES SEARLE, 1779.

In Council,

Philada., Jan'y 5, 1779.

Sir,

The Council have conferred together on the subject mentioned by you, and are of opinion that, in consideration of the present circumstances of the state of Pennsylvania, the property in it being greatly lessened by various means, and our trade entirely at a stand, it will not be advisable for the delegates of the State in Congress to increase the quota of the state for the present year beyond the proportion of the last year.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

J. R., Pres't.

To Hon'ble James Searle, Esq., Present.

CAPTAIN JOSEPH STILES TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Sir,

Agreeable to your orders of 30 ult., have examined the two powder Magazines, & find the old one is private property & very much out of repair. The new one, in possession of Col. Benj. Flower, Com. Gen. Mil. Stores for the United States, in which they now have near 400 Casks powder, and it will hold 400 Casks more, and is in very good Condition.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Serv't,

JOSEPH STILES.

Jan. 5th, 1779.

Coll. Timothy Matlack.

BENJAMIN RITTENHOUSE TO COUNCIL, 1779.

The Honorable, the Executive Council,
The Petition of Benj^a Rittenhouse.;

Gentlemen,

On my entering the Service of this State as superintendant of the Gun-lock Factory, I brought with me a number of Tools for that purpose, of carrying it on—to the amount of about £25, & which were sold to the State for that Sum—who have had the use of them for these 2 years. As the factory is now broke up & your petitioner intends following his Former Occupation, he begs he may have the Tools at the Price the Public were charged with them. Your granting the above request will much oblige your Petitioner.

BENJ^a RITTENHOUSE.

Jan. 5th, 1779.

Directed,

To the Honorable, the Executive Council.

ASSEMBLY TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philada., Jan'y 5th, 1779.

Sir,

Agreeable to your Excellency's Request I now transmit you the three Exemplified Copies of the Whiskey Bill.

I have the Honour,

Your most obed^t &

Very h^ble Serv^t,

J. MORRIS, Jr.

GENL. ANTHONY WAYNE TO PRES'T REED, 1779.

Sir,

Mill Stone, 5th Jan'y, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I have been Honored with your favours of the 23rd & 31st ultimo, & am fully Convinced that we owe much to you, Sir, for the provision now making for the Officers of the Penns^a Line, who will upon all proper Occasions be ready to support, & Manifest their Regard for the authority of the State.

The Matters Recommended by your Excellency are now before the Commanding Officers of the several Regiments, & shall take the

earliest Opportunity to transmit you their sentiments thereon, together with the mode adopted by Other States in Supplying their Troops with Clothing & other necessaries.

I am next to Inform your Excellency that in Consequence of the 6th rule in the Regulations of the Honbl. Congress for Establishing the army, passed the 24th Nov^r last,

That the Officers belonging to Colonels McGaw's & Cadwallader's Regiments who were made Prisoners, & lately arranged in some of the Other Regiments, are Objected to by the Officers of these Regiments, as you'll see by the Enclosed Report in the case of Capt. Bitting.

I must therefore Request you to transmit me the Opinion of the Committee thereon, as the Officers who conceive themselves Injured refuse doing duty until the Matter is Settled; alledging that a proper Provision is already made for them in their Own or former Reg^{ts} (by that Clause) whether there are Vacancies or not, & that no Officer is Obligated to Receive half pay until a vacancy happens, except the Officers who were made prisoners, belonging to the Reduced Regiments, who are Entitled to Supply the vacancies in any Regiment after the Officers belonging to the same are provided for.

Should this be the Opinion of the Committee it will be a means of settling a Dispute that Otherwise will be attended with many Resignations.

I am your Excellencies most

Ob^t & very Hum^l Sert,

ANTY WAYNE.

I would beg leave to suggest that shou'd Cap^t Bitting be Order'd to join the 4th Reg^t, he may be Directed to take Charge of the Colonels, Lieu^t Colonels, or Majors Companies; by this means he will not Interfere with the Command of any of the Companies who have Captains.

A. W.

Directed,

His Excellency Gov. Reed.

WM. LYON TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Carlisle, Jan'y 6th, 1779.

Sir,

General Armstrong shew'd to me Yesterday a Letter from the Vice President, Bearing Date the 11th Ult^o, in which was a Note desiring him to acquaint me that Council wanted I should send to you a List of the Justices of Cumberland County who had taken the Oath, and also of those who had not taken it. From which Note I apprehend is meant the Oath of Office, ~~thaps~~ in order to make out a new Dedimus.

I have therefore in compliance with the Vice President's Order, as I understand it, Inclos'd a List of all the Justices of the Peace who have been Commissioned by the Hon^{ble} Council for this County, shewing those who have taken the Oath of Office and those who have not. If I have misunderstood the Vice President in his short Note to the General, and if, in Consequence thereof, the Inclos'd List should prove Deficient, please let me know, (if not too late,) and shall observe the Order of Council by you, therein, with all Possible dispatch.

I am Sir,

your Most Obedient

Humble Servant,

WILLM. LYON.

List of Justices of the Peace of Cumberland County Sworn into Office.

John Rannells, Esq ^r ,	}	Antrim Townsh ^p .
Samuel Royer, Esq ^r ,		
James Oliver,	}	East Pennsb ^p D ^o .
John Trundle,		
John Agnew,	}	Carlisle Town.
John Creigh,		
John McClay,	}	Lurgan Townsh ^p .
Robert Peoples,		
Samuel Lyon,		Milford D ^o .
James Taylor,		Fermanagh D ^o .
Alexander Laughlin,		Newton D ^o .
William Brown,	}	Armagh D ^o .
Henry Taylor,		
John Anderson,	}	Allen D ^o .
Hugh Laird,		

Andrew McBeath,	Middleton D ^o .
Thomas Kennedy,	} West Pennsb ^o D ^o .
Charles Leeper,	
Samuel McCune,	Hopewell D ^o .
Patrick Vance,	} Guilford D ^o .
Matthew Wilson,	
George Matthews,	Hamilton D ^o .
William McClure,	} Tyrone D ^o .
David McClure,	
Samuel Culbertson,	Letterkenny D ^o .
James Armstrong,	Derry D ^o .
Frederick Watt,	Rye D ^o .
John Stewart,	Leek D ^o .
Alexander Murrey Jun ^r ,	Teboine D ^o .
Church Cox,	Greenwood D ^o .
David Elder,	} Fanet D ^o .
Noah Abraham,	

Persons Names Commiss^{es} for the Peace, &c^{ts}., but not Sworn into Office.

John Holmes,	} Carlisle Town.
Stephen Duncan,	
Ephraem Steel,	
William Brown,	
John Harris,	Fermanagh.
John Schuller,	Newton.
James Maxwell,	} Peters Township.
John Work,	

WILLM. LYON.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Sec'y to the Executive Council,
Philadelphia.

PRES. REED TO JAMES YOUNG, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, Jan'y 6th, 1779.

Sir,

The Council having received information that it is probable there are considerable quantities of Gun Powder* warehoused in and near the city of Philadelphia, contrary to law, and to the great danger of the lives of many of the inhabitants. The Council are, therefore, induced to request, that you will, at the next city court, give in charge to the Grand Inquest of the city to inquire, concerning the nuisance before mentioned.

I am, with great respect,

Sir, your humble servant,

J. R., Pres^t.*Directed,*To James Young, Esq^r.

COL. THOMAS PROCTOR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, January the 7th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Inclosed papers of the 5th Inst.,† I had the honour to Receive on the 6th, which demand my most gratefull thanks, as also your Excellency's Indulgence in laying my Letters before the Honourable Council.

But I feel a degree of unhappiness in being thought capable of paying Inattention to the authority of your Hon^{ble} House, a matter truly foreign to my Intention, and I hope will not be Imputed to any Inadvertent measure that might have been acted by me, as my motives were of a disinterested nature, and fully Intended for the benefit of the general cause. And, if I may be permitted to express my own feelings, should count it my highest ambition to be again Ingrafted into the Pennsylvania line, provided it met with your approbation and that of the Hon^{ble} Council, which act of Indulgence will yield me ample Consolation.

Soon after the Death of Lieut. Col. Strobogh, my officers, in general, waited on me, and requested me to draw up a state of the several promotions vacant in the Battallion, to be presented to the Hon^{ble} the Executive Council for their consideration, drawing this Inference that the late Resolve of Congress of the 24th November, pointed out that officers were to rise Regimentally to the Rank of

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 657.

† See page 135.

Captains, and in the line of the state to that of Colonel, and unless I represented to you their present situation they would be sufferers.

It would be unnecessary to mention to your Excellency My situation on this occasion, as harmony may long be supported by paying suitable attention to the prayer of those whom we are bound to hear; by this Inducement I presented your Excellency with the Inrollment of my officers, which first was Intended to be handed to you, (as a member of the Committee of Arrangements) on whose Integrity to execute Justice we had the strongest Reliance, and in this point, also, I had no view of my proceedings being Illegal, or in any wise Intended as an offence to the Hon^{ble} Council, on the contrary, shall be happy of ever having it in my power of serving them with My best officers. In the meantime,

I am, With due Esteem,

Y^r Excellency's obed^t and most

H^{ble} Serv^t,

THO^o PROCTOR.

P. S. I herewith have the pleasure of laying before the Hon^{ble} the Executive Council a state of my Battallion in December, 1778, since which no material alteration.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, President the Hon^{ble} Council, Philadelphia.

THOS. IRWIN, &C., TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Philadelphia, 8th January, 1779.

To His Excellency the President, & The Hon^{ab} the Execut^e Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Subscribers haveing some Armed Briggs now in this port, for which we want some heavy Ballast, and there being some Broken Cannon, that Belonged to the Augusta, laying at Kingsington, fit for no other use, Your Honours would confer a particular obligation on us by permitting us to take them, for which We shall pay the value of Ballast, If required.†

We are, with the Greatest Esteem,

Your Honours m^o ob^t m^o Hum. Serv^t,

THOMAS IRWIN,

MATH^o IRWIN,

ANDREW HODGE,

JN^o BAYARD.

Directed,

To The Hon^{ab} the Execut^e Council of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania.

* Not found.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 661.

J. & A. WILCOCKS TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Philad^a, January y^e 8th, 1779.

Sir,

In consequence of a verbal Notice to Mr. John Wilcocks, that the Hon^l the Executive Council were ready to hear us relative to the Quantity of Salt, (our Property) and to which they make some pretensions in Behalf of the State. We take the liberty to remind the Council, that they are already possess of a Memorial which we formerly presented to a joint Committee of Members of Congress and the Executive Council, containing the circumstances of the Purchase of the Salt, together with some Observations tending to shew the Purchase valid, upon the Principles of the Common Law and the Law of Nations. The Committee above alluded to, reported a State of Facts to Congress, who, not taking the Matter up so speedily as we hoped, We addressed several Letters to his Excellency, the then President of Congress, solliciting them to a Determination upon the Report, and mentioning a particular Day, after which, we would sell our Salt, unless they should come to some Determination upon the Matter. As far as we know, Congress has never made any Decision upon the subject, and we are sure they have never impeded us in the Sale of the Salt. With respect to the Hon^l the Executive Council, until a short time past, we never had the least Intimation from them that they meant to disturb our Property in the Salt. So far different was their conduct, that we flattered ourselves with an opinion that they had a kind and friendly disposition towards us. In this state of things, No Claim having been set up on Behalf of the State, and the pretensions of Congress being neglected, and in some manner deserted, we considered our Property as secure, sold a considerable part of the Salt for the use of the Public, and have paid for the whole in Bills of Exchange, Continental Currency, and some Gold. And what has involved us still deeper in Point of Interest is, that after the Sale to the Commissary Gen^l, we purchased Mr. McMurtrie's Share of what remained. These, Sir, are all the material circumstances that have occurred since our presenting the Memorial above mentioned, and when Council shall review and deliberately consider the whole matter, we trust they will not change those favourable Ideas, which we presume, they at one time entertained with regard to our Right and Property in the Salt, but determine to relinquish all Claim to it on Behalf of the State. We trust that Council will receive this Letter and State of Facts, as an Apology for our non-attendance in Person, particularly as we are advised by our Lawyers, that it is all that will be necessary on our

part. We hope they will also do us the justice to believe, that we have the greatest respect for them ;

And are, Sir,

Your most Obedt and

Very Humb. Serv^{ts},

JOHN WILCOCKS,

ALEX'R WILCOCKS.

The Honorable Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Indorsed,

Read in Council, Jan'y 8, 1779.

WARRANT TO THE SHERIFF, 1779.

[L. s.] Pennsylvania, ss.

The Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

To the Sheriff, Coroner, Constables, Bailiffs, and other our ministers of the city of Philadelphia, and every of you,

Greeting :

Whereas, a cruel and bloody War hath been long waged by the King of Great Britain, and his subjects and adherents, against the State of Pennsylvania and other the United States of North America, and the subjects of the said States : And whereas, during the continuance of the said war, and while the parties therein were and yet are in open hostility against each other, General Sir William Howe, Commander in Chief of the Army of the said King of Great Britain did, with an armed force, and in an hostile manner, on or about the twenty sixth day of September, A. D., 1777, take possession of the said city of Philadelphia, and continued his possession thereof until the 15th, 16th, and 17th days of June last, when, by the United force and arms of these United States and their Allies, the army of the said King of Great Britain was compelled to evacuate the said city, and on the eighteenth day of June last, wholly to relinquish the possession thereof to the arms and subjection of these United States : And whereas, various kinds of military stores, provisions, goods, wares and merchandizes, the property of the King of Great Britain, his subjects or adherents, were necessarily left at the times aforesaid in the said city, which by the laws of nations and rights of war become justly confiscated to the publick use, the said

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., pp. 654, 661.

stores, goods, wares, merchandizes and other property, so far as the same belongs to the King of Great Britain, to the proper use and benefit of the United States, & so far as the same may be the property of other subjects, or adherents of the said King of Great Britain, to the special use and benefit of this State: And whereas, we are given to understand that a certain quantity of Salt, containing by estimation three thousand and five hundred bushels, the property of British subjects or their adherents, remains in a certain store belonging to Joseph Pritchard, on the south side of Chesnut street wharf, being there left and abandoned on the evacuation of the said city; These are, therefore, in the name and by the authority of the State to us committed, to require you or any of you to seize and take into your possession the said Salt, or so much thereof as may yet remain, and to pursue the same wheresoever it may be removed and found, and the same safely keep in your possession until you shall receive further direction therein. And for your so doing this shall be your sufficient warrant, and in what manner you shall proceed in the premises you make known to us, at the Council Chamber at the State House, in the said city, forthwith.

Given by order of the Council, under the hand of His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President, and the less Seal of the State, at Philadelphia, this eighth day of January, A. D., 1779.

JOS. REED, President.

Attest.

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

To the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

By Virtue of the within Writ, to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession a large Quantity of Salt, (the Salt in the within Writ mentioned) in Joseph Pritchard's Store, on the South side of Chesnut street Wharf containing by estimation two thousand Bushells; and I further Certify, that in obedience to an order of the Council aforesaid, on this Sixteenth day of January Instant, I have delivered the aforesaid quantity of Salt to Mr. George Henry, Commissary of Stores.

Given under my hand, this 16th day of January, Anno Domini, one thousand seven hundred and Seventy nine.

ROBERT JEWELL, Corr.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., pp. 661, 670. Also, Archives, Vol. VI.

JAMES YOUNG TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

I am Honoured with your Letter of Yesterday, respecting an Enquiry into Forestalling, &c. Also, concerning the public Waggon being employed for Private Uses.

As to the former, as soon as I received the first intelligence I sent for Messrs. Jedediah Snowden, Schlosser, Hollingshead and Heysham, who gave me Information who could give Evidence against John Phillips and Philip Weiss,* who are suspected of Forestalling Flour. I intended to have proceeded the next Day to make proper Enquiry, but was unfortunately seized with a smart fit of the Gout, the Severe pain whereof is the cause of my Delay. I have now sent my Memorandums concerning those matters to Mr. Fleeson, and requested him to proceed therein as soon as possible.

I beg leave to enclose your Excellency a Letter from Andrew Boyd,† Waggon Master General for Chester County, of 7th Nov^r last, containing the first Intelligence concerning Waggon being employed for private Uses. Also, the Original Memorandum I made from Col. Boyd's Verbal Acco^t on the 28th of November, and two other Letters I have recd from him as Excuses for Jesse Jordan's (Brigade Waggon M^r) not appearing to give proper Information, agreeable to my direction. From the delay of Jordan's appearance, I cannot help remarking that I suspect there is some art used to prevent his coming. Whether the Honorable Council may think proper to Command him to appear before them to give the Information, I submit to their superior judgment.

I am with great Respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient
and most humble Servant,

JAS. YOUNG.

Philad'a, January 10th, 1779.

Directed.

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., pp. 650, 671.

† See page 672.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 10th Jan'y, 1779.

Sir,

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed Copies of two Acts of Congress on the subject of Finance—one of the 2d, the other of the 5th Inst.

I have the Honor to be

Your Excellencys most obed^t Serv^t,

JOHN JAY,

Pres^t. of Congress.

P. S. I also enclose a Copy of an Act of the 1st Inst.

His Excellency President Reed.

MAJOR JOHN EDWARDS TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Honoured Sir,

I did not receive your Letter till y^e 11th Instant, requesting me to view the Bridge on Schuylkill, & to Report to Council what is the present state of the same, & what would be the expence of filling up the Boxes. You signify in your Letter, that Mr. Matlack wrote to me concerning it, but I never received any of his writing, according to request I went to see the Bridge, & to my surprise saw that three of the Peers is totally carried off by the Ice & the fourth shattered greatly, which happened on the night of the 9th Instant, & for to repair it this winter is almost impossible; it is my opinion was it Repaired it would stand but a short time.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

JNO. EDWARDS.*

Providence, Jan. 12, 1779.

COUNCIL TO N. JERSEY, DEL. AND VIRGINIA, 1779.

Philad'a, Jan'y 12th, 1779.

Sir,

I am directed by the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, to forward to the Executive authority of N. Jersey, Virginia and the Delaware state, the enclosed Act to prohibit for a limited time, "the making of Whisky and other Spirits from Wheat, Rye, "or any other sort of Grain, or from any meal or flour." This Act

* See Vol. VI., p. 685, 768, and p. 107 of this Vol.

has been passed without limiting its operation until the neighbouring States shall pass similar laws, but as it will not fully answer the end proposed, unless like laws are passed in the States above mentioned, it became highly proper that they should be made acquainted with the passing of such a law.

I have the honor to be,
with the greatest respect,
Sir, your most obedient &
Very hm'ble Servant.

PETITION OF B. HARBESON, &c., TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To the Hon'ble the Executive Council of the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania.

The Subscribers have now a vessel fitted out at a considerable expence ready for sea, & are in great want of Powder & Match rope, which they cannot procure at present for Cash; they therefore request your Honourable Body be pleased to lend or sell them 250lb of Gunpowder, & 50lb of Match Rope, & 200 bunches of 3 & 4 pound grape shot.

Which will very much oblige,
Your most obedient humble Servts.,
JNO. PURVIANCE,
JOS. DEAN,
BENJ'N HARBESON.

Philadelphia, 14th January, 1779.

Indorsement.

Petition from Messrs. Dean & Harbeson, request^r the Loan or Sale of 250lb of Powder, 50lb Match Rope, 200 Bunches of 3 & 4lb Grape Shot.

Capt. Jos. Stiles to sell the Petitioners what can be spared, retain^s a suffi^t stock for the publick.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 667.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, January 18, 1779.

We cannot review the progress of the revolution which has given freedom to America, without admiring the goodness and gratefully acknowledging the interposition of Divine Providence. Oppressed by the Prince who ought to have exerted himself for our protection, and suddenly called upon to repel his unprovoked invasion,—without arms or ammunition, without military discipline or permanent finances, without an established government or allies; enfeebled by habitual attachments to our very enemies—We were precipitated into all the expensive operations incident to a state of war, with one of the most formidable nations on earth. Thus surrounded on all sides with wants and difficulties and dangers, notwithstanding the internal wealth of our country, immediate taxation was impracticable; and, for the same reason and a share of ill success at different periods, we could not hope, either at home or abroad, to borrow money to supply our exigencies.

Humbly relying on the favor of Heaven in a righteous cause, and confiding in the justice and intrepidity of our injured fellow-citizens, we, from necessity embraced the expedient of emitting paper money on the faith of the United States, for the expences of the war—an expedient which had often been successfully practised in separate States while we were subjected to British domination. The implacable vengeance with which we have been pursued has compelled us to the most strenuous and unremitted efforts: Large issues of money were of consequence indispensably necessary, and the paper currency multiplied beyond what was competent for the purposes of a circulating medium. This alone could not fail to discredit it in some degree. The arts of an unprincipled enemy have increased the mischief. In despair of subduing the free spirit of America by force of arms, or the intrigues of negotiation, as their last effort they have had recourse to fraud. Their emissaries have been employed in a variety of artifices to debase our money, and to raise the price of commodities. The fears and apprehensions of the people have been alarmed by misrepresentation; while our enemies of the highest rank have not hesitated to counterfeit the bills of credit and disperse them throughout the United States.

Such being the embarrassments which interrupt a free circulation of our paper money, they loudly call for a remedy; and Congress, from a regard to good faith, to private justice, and to public safety, are bound to apply it. Happily, by a combination of auspicious events, every obstacle is removed, and the means placed within our reach. Those hostile armies which attempted to enslave us, no longer formidable, are wasted and dispersed. Our independence is established on a firm basis; our respective Governments which com-

pose the Union, are settled and in the vigorous exercise of uncontrolled authority. An Alliance, on terms of perfect equality, is formed with one of the greatest nations on earth; and, freed in a high degree from external assaults, we have leisure to direct our attention to oeconomy, and our resources to support the public credit: To raise the value of our paper money, and to redeem it, will not, we are persuaded, be difficult; nor to check and defeat the pernicious currency of counterfeits, impracticable: Both require a far less share of public virtue and public vigilance than have distinguished this arduous conflict.

Without public inconvenience or private distress, the whole of the debt incurred in paper emissions to this day, may be cancelled by taxes: It may be cancelled in a period so limited as must leave the possessor of the bills satisfied with his security; and if by a continuance of the war, the public service should demand further emissions, they too may be cancelled within the same period: It being evident that our ability to sustain a tax must encrease in proportion to the quantity of money in circulation.

The danger from counterfeits can only be avoided by calling in and exchanging the emissions which have chiefly suffered by that species of fraud. To publish the marks of detection, and still to leave the true bills current, will not be prudent; as it must afford an opportunity for correcting defects and cheating more securely.

To defend the emission intended for the exchange from counterfeits, the strongest guards will be devised; and it is expected that the marks of authenticity will be so obvious, and the difficulty of successful imitation so great, as to discourage the attempt or elude its effects.

Upon these weighty considerations Congress have agreed to the annexed Resolutions, and recommend them to the immediate attention of the respective Legislatures of the United States, to the end that Laws may be enacted to give them the most speedy, decisive, and effectual operation.

In Congress, January 2, 1779.

Whereas these United States, unprovided with revenues, and not heretofore in a condition to raise them, have, in the course of the present war, repeatedly been under the necessity of emitting bills of credit, for the redemption of which the faith of these United States has been solemnly pledged; and the credit of which their honor and safety as well as justice is highly concerned to support and establish. And whereas to that end it is essentially necessary to ascertain the periods of their redemption; and seasonably to establish funds, which, in due time, without distressing the people, shall make adequate provision for the same. And whereas, in apportioning the

payments for the said fund, it is expedient that an extra sum be called for the current year, both on account of the present ease of paying it and to reduce the surplus in circulation. Therefore

Resolved, That these United States be called on to pay in their respective quotas of fifteen millions of dollars in the year 1779, and of six millions of dollars annually for 18 years, from and after the year 1779, as a fund for sinking the emissions and loans of these United States to the 31st day of December, 1778, inclusive.

That if the continuance and circumstances of the war shall make any further emissions necessary, the year ensuing, they shall be sunk in the manner and within the period aforesaid.

That any of the bills emitted by order of Congress, prior to the year 1780, and no others, be received in payment of the said quotas. That the bills received on the said quotas, except those for the year 1779, be applied first for payment of the interest, and secondly of the principal of loans made by these United States, prior to the year 1780, and that the residue, together with those received on the quotas of the year 1779, be not re-issued, but burned and destroyed as Congress shall direct.

And whereas many counterfeits have appeared in circulation, of various denominations, of the emissions of May 20, 1777, and April 11, 1778, and counterfeits of these emissions have lately been issued by our enemies at New York, and are found to be spreading and increasing fast in various parts of these United States; whereby individuals are defrauded, prices enhanced, and the credit of the paper currency greatly injured; and it is become necessary for the security of individuals and safety of the public, that those two emissions should cease to be a circulating medium, and should be called in and exchanged, or otherwise provided for as soon as may be with convenience to the present holders. Therefore

Resolved, That the following bills be taken out of circulation, namely, the whole emissions of May 20, 1777, and April 11, 1778.

That they be brought in for that purpose in the manner hereafter provided by the first day of June next, and not afterwards redeemable.

That they be received for debts and taxes into the Continental Treasuries, and into the State Treasuries for Continental taxes, until the first day of June next.

That they be received until the first day of June next, into the Continental Loan Offices, either on Loan or to be exchanged, at the election of the owners, for other bills of the like tenor, to be provided for that purpose.

That the bills lodged in the said offices to be so exchanged, be there registered, and indented certificates thereof given to the owners by the respective Commissioners of the said offices.

That the Commissioners of the Loan Offices make returns to the Treasury Board, immediately after the first day of June next, of the amount of the bills received into their respective offices to be exchanged as aforesaid, and that proper bills to exchange the same

be furnished and ready to be delivered out at their said offices, within 60 days from and after the first day of June.

That the first mentioned bills, as they are brought into the Treasuries and Loan Offices, be immediately crossed and struck through with a circular punch of one inch diameter, to be afterwards examined and burned, as Congress shall direct.

Extract from the minutes.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

In Congress, January 5, 1779.

Resolved, That the several States raise by taxes respectively as follows, for their quotas of the fifteen millions of Dollars for the year 1779.

New-Hampshire,	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
Massachusetts-Bay,	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
Rhode-Island & Providence Plantations,	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
Connecticut,	-	-	-	-	-	1,700,000
New-York,	-	-	-	-	-	800,000
New-Jersey,	-	-	-	-	-	800,000
Pennsylvania,	-	-	-	-	-	1,900,000
Delaware,	-	-	-	-	-	150,000
Maryland,	-	-	-	-	-	1,560,000
Virginia,	-	-	-	-	-	2,460,000
North-Carolina,	-	-	-	-	-	1,090,000
South-Carolina,	-	-	-	-	-	1,800,000
Georgia, being invaded, is hereafter to raise her proportion.						

15,000,000

That the said several sums, or any greater sums which shall be paid by any of the States into the Continental Treasury, shall be placed to their respective credits on interest, on the same terms as are set forth in the Resolution of Congress, passed November 22d, 1777.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

In Congress, January 14, 1779.

Resolved, That the bills to be emitted for exchanging others, agreeable to the Resolution of Congress the 2d instant, or for supporting the war the ensuing year, be of the following denominations, viz: 65, 60, 55, 50, 45, 40, 35, 30, 20, 8, 7, 5, 4, 3 and 2 Dollars; and One Dollar.

That the Form of the Bills be as follows:

"No. , Dollars. The bearer is entitled to receive
"Spanish Milled Dollars, or an equal sum in Gold or Silver, according to a Resolution of Congress of the 14th of January, 1779."

That each of the said Bills be numbered and signed by two persons.

That the faith of the United States be pledged for the Redemption of such Bills, on or before the first day of January, 1797, agreeable to the Resolutions of Congress aforesaid.

That for preventing the counterfeiting of the said Bills, new stamps with additional checks, be provided, and a sufficient number of proof sheets struck, and sent to the Assemblies of the respective States, to be lodged by them under proper Regulations in Public Offices in their several Counties, Towns and Districts, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the United States.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

Indorsed.

Resolve of Congress for raising supplies of money.*

COUNCIL TO W. CLINGHAM, 1779.

Philadelphia, Jan'y 15, 1779.

Sir,

The Council direct me to write to you requesting your attendance in Congress, the representation of this State being too generally much less than is consistent with its interest.

Col. Atlee is now returning home, which renders your presence the more necessary at a time when business of great importance is daily before Congress.

I have the honour to be with great respect,

Sir, your very humble servant,

T. M., Sec'y.†

Directed,

H'ble Wm. Clingham, Esq^r.

* The foregoing are all printed from a handbill.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 649.

GEN. D. ROBERDEAU TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, Jan'y 16th, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honor of now enclosing you an act of Congress of this day,* in answer to the application of the Delegates of this State, agreeable to your Excellency's Instructions of the 14th Inst., & am

Y'r Excellency's

Most ob't & very hum' serv't,

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

JEREM. WADSWORTH TO COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS, 1779.

Philadelphia, January 18, 1779.

Sir,

Some days since I wrote to Congress, expressing my fears that it would not be possible to procure full supplies of flour for the army without adopting other Measures than the usual ones for that purpose.

I now inform you that it is not possible to obtain wheat and flour by purchase, and the army must be soon distressed for want of bread if the present disposition to withhold the wheat and flour continues.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obed't

humble servant,

JERE. WADSWORTH,

Com. Gen'l, Pres't.

Directed,

The hon'ble Messrs. Scudder, Morris & Whipple, Committee of Congress.—Copy.

* See Col. Rec. Vol., XI., p. 669.

PRESIDENT REED TO DELEGATES IN CONGRESS, 1779.

January 18, 1779.

Gentlemen,

The Board at which I have the honour to preside having taken into consid'n the very great & heavy expenditures made by this State on account of the United States, far exceeding those of any other state, together with the calamities necessarily incident to the seat of War, which have rendered the operations of Govern^t for its internal support & defence, in many respects, partial & inadequate, would have deemed it highly proper to ask of Congress an advance of cash if they had not been restrained by other considerations. But the General Assembly at their last session having expressly recommended it, & the late resolution of Congress of* Inst. having annihilated as to the Purposes of Circulation a large sum of the emissions described in the s^d resolve now laying & expected in the public Treasury; these together with the pressing exigencies of a general as well as particular nature, make it no longer a matter of choice but necessity, to request of Congress an advance of †. And we have only to add that a speedy settlement of the account between this & the United States, so as to regulate future applications, will be highly satisfactory to us & the good people of the state in general.

You will please to consider this letter as an instruction to you, & lay the same before the hon'ble Congress for their speedy determination.

JOHN MITCHELL TO PRES'T REED, 1779.

Quarter Master Generals Office,

Philada., 19th January, 1779.

Sir,

I this day received an order signed by the Secretary of the Honorable Council of this State. requesting I would give them information respecting a Brigade of Waggon's under the conduct of Jesse Jordan† W. M., from Chester County; the Council having been informed that I sent them to Egg Harbour to convey private property to this City. I shall at all times be ready to give your Excellency and the Honble Council every information you think necessary for the good of the Publick, or this State in particular, which relates to my office

* See pp. 154—158.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 669-70.

‡ See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 672.

or the business of the Department, as I have no desire to expose any part of my conduct as a publick officer, having conducted the business under my direction with Integrity and Justice to the Publick, the following are the State of the facts required, Viz.

In the Month of October last at the time the Enemy had landed some Troops at Egg Harbour, General Arnold desired I would furnish him with a Brigade of Teams which he wanted to send to the Jerseys, and that he would pay the hire of them, they being wanted to remove property which was in eminent danger of falling into the Enemy's hands. I informed him he should have the Waggon Master of the first Brigade which could be spared from publick Service sent to him, when he would give him such orders as he pleased; accordingly about the 22d of October, Mr. Jordan was sent to the General to receive his directions, having at that time sent forward a large supply for the Army, &c., when Jordan returned he was desired to make out his account to General Arnold to be paid. I do not know where the Loading was stored, nor whose property it was, further than what is before mentioned. A greater number of Continental Teams coming in than I expected, enabled me to comply with General Arnold's request without any inconvenience to the service; if there is any thing further in which I can satisfy your Excellency and the Council I will wait on you at any time with pleasure.

I have the honor to be

with great respect,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient &

most Humble Serv't,

JNO. MITCHELL, D. Q. M. G.

Directed.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

GEN. WASHINGTON TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Gentlemen,

The liberal Testimony of approbation which you did me the honor of transmitting by the hands of his Excellency the President, coming from so respectable an Assembly, cannot but make the deepest impression on my mind.

However conscious I am that your generous sensibility attributes

infinitely too much to me, my respect for you leads me to acquiesce
in your request and gratefully

To subscribe myself

Gentlemen,

your much obliged

and most obed't Serv't,

G. WASHINGTON.*

Head Quarters, Philadelphia, Jan'y 20th, 1779.

Directed,

To His Excellency the President and the honorable members of
the Supreme Executive Council.

COUNCIL TO DELEGATES IN CONGRESS, 1779.

Council Chamber,

Jan. 20th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

This Board having taken into their consideration the state of their General Officers & examined the Resolutions of Congress, have unanimously come into the Determinations which I now inclose, & upon which Council desire you to exert yourselves, that Justice may be done the State in a Point where it has been, & may again be materially injured if not duly attended to; this State has had more of its officers & Men captured by the Enemy than any four or 5 other States in the Union: many of them perished miserably in their hands, many yet remain Prisoners from the Year 1776, great Irregularities having happened before an authorized Commissary was appointed & his authority having been controuled by some States in special Instances. Notwithstand'g these public losses occasioned in no small degree by the confidence reposed in them, this State has more Troops engaged for the War than any other, & more men in the Field on actual service under Gen. Washington than any other. We mention these Circumstances as a Ground for your claiming the attention of Congress that the Troops of this State may not be deprived of the advantages attending a Command of one of their own officers when entitled to it, as at present we clearly conceive they are. When the State raised Troops equal to a Generals Command, General Armstrong & Gen. Thompson were appointed at an early day—Congress thought proper to lay the first aside arbitrarily, as they did General Arnold at the same time, either arbitrarily or because the respective States of Penn-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 671, where the Council request him to "permit them to place his portrait in the Council Chamber."

sylvania & Connecticut had an unequal Proportion of Gen. Officers. Congress soon after raised Gen. Arnold to be a Major Gen., leaving Gen. Armstrong in his old Station, which occasioned an immediate Resignation. In the mean time Brig^r St Clair had been promoted to be a Major Gen., & by Military Rules had a clear Precedence of Gen. Arnold. Now either the Congress act arbitrarily in cases of Promotion or upon some Principle—if of the latter why deprive Gen. Armstrong & in him the State of the Benefit arising from his appointment—if mere Power is the Principle why is Gen. Arnold to be preferred to St Clair who had by an Act of Congress gained a decided superiority. If it is alledged that Congress have in cases of extraordinary Merit a Right of ordering Promotion, this Rule can never with Justice be extended so as to intrench upon the Rights of others—such a construction would if carried into effect break up any Army—for tho' Congress may have a Right to raise a Lieutenant to be a Colonel, they cannot justly or properly give him Rank over all other Colonels nor has this ever been done.

How far later Opinions & better Information may have encreased or diminished the splendor of the Danbury affair we shall not enter into, Congress being allowed to be the Judge of Merit, but it has never yet appeared to us that this Reason is assigned for the Promotion which ought & has been the Case where the line of succession has been broken in Respect to extraordinary Merit—Upon the whole therefore we think the State may justly claim either that entire Justice be done, in which case Gen. Armstrong who is highly esteemed by this State be restored to his Rank—or if the Power of Congress is admitted in this Case then the exercise of it ought to be claimed in the Case of Gen. St Clair, otherwise Pennsylvania must draw this unhandsome Conclusion that Congress apply one Rule to other States & another to her, a Principle which can neither claim our Respect or obedience.

We do not enter into the comparative merits of the Gentlemen but we may & think ourselves in Duty to this State obliged to say that from the Experience we have had, Gen. Arnold's Command has not been exercised with that Dignity or attention to the Interests & convenience of the People whom we represent to induce us to abate from motives of personal Respect the smallest claim which the State has upon the Justice & Honour of Congress.

By the Desire & in Behalf

of the Council unanimously,

I subscribe myself Gentlemen,

Your most obed. & very Hble Serv't.

Indorsement,

To the Honble the Delegates of Pennsylvania in Congress.

PRES. REED TO MONS. GERARD, 1779.

In Council,

Philad'a, Jan'y 25, 1779.

Sir

The Laws & Police of this State require, that when any Persons come to violent Death, the proper Officers of Justice are to make Inquiry into the Causes of such Death, & report to publick authority that justice may be done & Offenders brought to Punishment. There is great reason to believe that a Gentleman of your Nation has lately died, in consequence of a Wound received from an American Officer, & tho the proper Officer have made diligent Inquiry, & especially of the French Gentlemen, they find themselves embarrassed & discovery hitherto eluded, & as we apprehend from false Principles of Delicacy & Honour. Our respect to the Nation so worthily represented by you, & the justice of our State combine on this Occasion to scrutinize the unhappy Transaction, & we have to request of your honour to exert your Influence over the Gentlemen of your Nation to give the necessary Information. We are sorry to observe, that their Silence & Reluctance prevents us from ascertaining the Name, Abode, or Place of Burial of the deceased. But that such an Event has really happened we entertain little doubt.

It is perfectly unnecessary for me to give your Excell^r assurances of our sincere desire to preserve perfect Harmony between the subjects of the different Nations now so firmly united in Interests & Friendship, to add that the Inquiries above referr'd to, will have a happy tendency to prevent such violence in future, & to guard the Laws of the Country from Violation, & preserve the Amity subsisting between the two Nations.

I am with great Respect,

Your Excell^{ty} most obed.Hble Serv^t.JOS. REED, Presd^t.*

Hble the Sieur Gerard, Minister

Plenipotentiary of His Most Christian Majesty.

GEO. SMITH TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

I have Discovered a few more of y^e Inhabitanee of Phila^a County, that has gon off with y^e Enemy of theas States, and haith not bean Proclamd yet, theifore I send you their Names in hops to see it in our Paper soon, as I find some of their Estates is a Wasting very fast.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XL, p. 678, and reply, page 169. *

Thomas Gordon, of Oxford township, single man, son of y^e Widow Gordon, jist above Frankford.

• Holton Jones, batter, of Germantown township, single man.

Isaac Taylor, single man, yeoman, of Whitpain township.

John Robison, Cordwinder, of Whitpain township, single man.

Daniel Jones, of y^e Manor of Moreland, single man; all of y^e County of Phila^a, State of Pennsylvania.

This from your Humble Servant,

GEORGE SMITH.

Directed,

To Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of y^e Executive Councill, Pennsy^a.

DR. VALENTINE STANDLEY TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Philad^a, Jan'y 26th, 1779.

Honorable Gentl^s,

The 31st of July, 1777, I had the Honor of being appointed Surgeon of the Ship Montgomery, by the Navy Board, after having produced a Certificate of my Examination before Doct^r Wm. Shippen, Senior & Junior. When the Enemy took possession of this city, Doct^r Dunlap remain'd here, leaving upon Province Island the Sick, Medicines, Instruments, bedding, &c., belonging to the Hosp^l. Upon the Enemy making their appearance towards the Island, I thought it most prudent to remove the sick, &c., upon Mud Island, which I accordingly did, and took care of them. The 1st of Oct^r, 1777, the Navy Board & Commodore, without any sollicitation of mine, appointed me Senior Surgeon to the Hospital & Fleet, in the Room of Doct^r Dunlap, who deserted said Hospital & Fleet, with all the Power & Pay that he had. Upon the appearance of the Enemys Batteries upon Province Island, I thought proper to remove the Sick into the Jerseys, where they remained until the last Saturday of the Siege, when I sent the wounded & them up to Burlington, with my Mate, to Doct^r Glentworth, whilst I remain'd behind with the Commodore, in Case of any Accidents happening on the Retreat apast the City. Upon my arrival at Burlington I found my sick & wounded, I immediately crossed the River to Bristol and erected a Hospital there; after that I removed them to Trenton where we wintered, from thence to Lancaster & Philad^a, where I have taken particular Care of them to this Day. F^r Hutchinson has never yet attended the sick since his appointment.

I called upon the Paymaster the other day for some money, he in-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 679.

formed me that Council had ordered him to pay me off, but to keep within fifty Dollars $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ month, when Doct^r Dunlap had Three Dollars $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ Day, as will appear by Mr. Webb, the Paymaster formerly, or by Doct^r Dunlap, who received it. I think myself much aggrieved, that I should be superceded by a Gentl^e who bears three Commissions in the Army & Navy; not only that, but that I should be refused by the Paymaster to be paid my just due, when I have endured all the Hardships of the Campaign, & taken care of all the sick, wounded, &c., which fell into my Hands. I now beg leave to introduce to the Honorable Gentl^e of the Council, a few lines from the Navy Board, Commodore & Doct^r Glentworth, testifying my Behaviour & Treatment of the sick & wounded. Interim I have the Honor to be, with the most profound Respect & Esteem,

Hon^{'le} Gentl^e

Y^r most Ob^t h^c S^t,

VALENTINE STANDLEY, Jr.*

These are to Certify, that Doctor Valentine Standly has acted as Chief Surgeon of the Pennsylvania State Fleet, under my Command, from the time the Enemy took possession of this City, and during the siege of the River we had about 70 men kill'd and wounded in different Actions with the Enemy's Ships and Batteries, during which time he perform'd his Business in such a manner as to effect a great number of Cures on men who were dangerously wounded.

Given under my hand, in Philad^a, this 17th day of Jan^r, 1779.

JOHN HAZELWOOD, C. P. F.

The Bearer hereof, Doct^r Valentine Standley, was appointed Senior Surgeon to the Hospital Fleet, in the room of Doct^r Dunlap, who deserted the said Hospital & Fleet, & has, during the whole of the time, taken the utmost care imaginable of the sick & wounded which fell into his hands, by which he has merited the approbation & esteem of this Board.

WM. BRADFORD,
PAUL COX,
MANUEL EYRE.

Jan'y 13th, 1779.

Directed,

To the Hon^{'ble} Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI. p. 691.

GEN. D ROBERDEAU TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philad^a, Jan'y 27th, 1779.

Sir,

Yesterday the enclosed Resolution obtained, but hurry of business on the affairs it alludes to, and others respecting this State, was the occasion of my omitting to forward the enclosed before. I am with most respectful salutations to Council,

Sir, y^r most ob^t & veryhumb. Serv^t,

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Hon^{'ble} the Supreme Executive Council, Pennsylvania.

WM. AUG. PATTERSON TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r, Governor and President of the State of Pennsylvania, The Memorial of Wm. Aug^{us} Patterson Late Capt. of the 15th Regm^t of the Massechusets Bay, Commanded by Coln^t Patterson.—Humbly Sheweth,

That your Excellencys Memorialist Entered the service at The time your Honour & his Excellency went to Cambridge, at which place he joined the Grand Army there with the Convoy of Powder from this Place under his care the 17th Day of August. A short time after he was Honoured with a First Lieut^{cy} In the above Regm^t By the Coln^l Request; he then did Duty untill the Evacuation of Boston The 17th of March, & was in every Publick Service during the Blockade; the 18th of March he marched off with four Regm^{ts}, his own under the Command of General Heath To New York where with the Brigade he arrived Aprill the Third, And in a Few Days after his Arrivell was ordered with a Party to Fort Montgomery seventy-five miles up the North River, where in Eighteen Days he Erected a Battery Mounting six Eighteen Pounders. In the Beginning of May he was with his party taken on Board the fleet bound to Canada under the Command of Generall Thompson; on our arrivall at Fort St. John our Regm^t Received orders from his honnour General Arnold to join him at Montreall with all the Men whom had had the Small Pox. I was sent over with that party under the Command of our Brave Major Sherburne (now a Collon^l) In the Different Actions in that place I can as well as others take upon me to say I ever attempted The Duty of the officer & the Soldier He then with the Remains of the Regm^t & our flying army under Generall Arnold,

Returned to Crown Point & from there to Ticonderoga, where the Command of the Northern Army Devolved on General Gates, who appointed him assistant Engineer To Coln. Baldwin. In which service He Directed and Superintended all the Works at Ticonderoga and Mount Independence. In August 1776 my Brave Cap^t Died Nigh Crown point. When I got the Company in November I was ordered off from Ty^e with General Gates, the Rear of the four Reg^{ts} under his Command Being given to me I joined His Excellency Gen^l Washington at Newtown, the Even'g of the 24th of December, after a severe hard march. The 25th in the Even'g we marched to the Glorious action of Trenton & then to the third of Jan'y Prince Town, from thence to Morristown, where the times of His Regm^t Being Expired & A Law passed in the State of Massachusetts Bay, that no officer was to serve in that State except he Belonged to it, which put me Intirely out of Commission. As I Claimed this State and my friends here at the time of the Regulations of the troops of this State thinking I was provided for, Being so long in the Service made no Provision for me, However that never hindered me to attempt the Duty I owe my Country. On the 20th of May 1777 I joined the train of Artillery of this State, and has ever since acted as a Volunteer. In every action, that of Monmouth excepted, as I was here on Duty without Pay or any Retaliation whatsoever, all I now ask, as I hear there is a Regulation of the troops of this State, that if my Little Services is worthy the notice of your Excellency or the Hon^{ble} Executive Council you will take my Circumstances under Consideration as your Honour & the Council shall think meet.

There is a Corps of Engineers Forthwith to be raised under General Du Portail, which is a piece of Duty I am a little acquainted with, which I shou'd have no objection to enter into, as Nothing wou'd give me more pleasure than to attempt My Small Services towards the Establishment of a Country, That is & I am certain whilst maintained by a number of such Virtuous Citizens in force & Ever will Be so, which God grant it May.

Philad., Jan'y 27th, 1779.

W^m. AUG^{us} PATTERSON.

Directed.

To His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r and the Hon^{ble} the Members of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

MONS. GERARD TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

A Philadelphie, le 27 Janvier, 1779.

Monsieur,

En conséquence de la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire,* j'ai parlé à la plupart des Officiers françois qui sont à Philadelphie et j'ai fait prendre des informations chez des autres particuliers de ma nation relativement à la mort qui fait l'objet des recherches du Conseil de cet Etat. Ils m'ont déclaré unanimement qu'ils n'avoient† aucune connoissance relativement à cet événement que par le bruit public, qu'en l'apprenant ils avoient fait toutes les perquisitions possibles pour s'assurer de la vérité des faits dont ils doutoient d'autant plus qu'ils ne voyoient manquer aucune de leurs compatriotes; que leurs soins les avoit conduit à apprendre que M. le Capitaine d'Ogherti s'étoit vanté d'avoir tué un françois. M. le C^e d'Esisnard s'adressa à M. D'Ogherti lui même pour lui demander si les propos qu'on lui portoit étoient vrais, cet Officier répondit qu'il n'avoit pas tué mais simplement blessé son adversaire, et que le lendemain ils ont bu et mangé ensemble en très bonne intelligence.

Voilà, Monsieur, tout ce que mon zèle pour le bon ordre, ma déférence pour les desirs du Conseil et mon empressement pour tout ce qui peut être agréable à l'Etat m'ont conduit à découvrir. J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre le tout afin que le Conseil en fasse l'usage qu'il jugera convenable. Si vous me permettez de vous en dire ma pensée il me semble, Monsieur, qu'il ne s'agit que de constater que le bruit de la mort du françois dont il s'agit, est destituée de tout fondement.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec les sentimens les plus respectueux.

Monsieur,

Votre très humble et très
obéissant serviteur,

GERARD.

* See page 164.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XL, p. 678.

PRESIDENT REED TO THOMAS BURKE, ESQ., 1779.

In Council, Philada., January 28th, 1779.

Sir,

I was favoured yesterday with yours of the 26th Inst., respecting the Sloop Active,* which from having been a subject of much litigation in the Courts of Justice, now comprehends questions of high import to the Interests & Police of this & the United States. And we feel great anxiety that the discipline may be had upon the Principles of Law, Justice & Reason only, & conducted with that Harmony & Temper which will be most likely to lead to Truth & future Tranquility. The general power & jurisdiction of Congress in maritime cases between the captors & captured we apprehend is not affected by the opposition made to the decree of the Commissioners in the case of the Active. We therefore fear some inconveniences will ensue, if the Committee should make their Report without giving the parties interested an opp'y to state the Grounds & Principles upon which the difficulty of complying with this decree is made.

Because if it should appear to have originated from the special circumstances of the case, & founded on the Municipal law of the State, we apprehend it will be clearly distinguished from the case of a general denial of the authority of Congress in all maritime causes whatsoever.

I would wish that this may not be considered as an interference of the State, but information to the Hon'ble Committee, suggested by our regard to the real Interests of the whole community, & a desire that their Report may be framed upon a full & perfect knowledge of all the circumstances of the case.

In this view I submit to your consideration whether an opp'y given to the parties to lay before you the Principles & Grounds upon which pursuing the advice of Gentlemen of real Ability & Knowledge the Jurisdiction of Congress has been questioned, will not tend to a just, honourable & peaceful conclusion of this business.

THOS. BURKE TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, January 28th, 1779.

Sir,

I received your favor of this day, and laid it before the Committee.

We concur with you in every wish that the business referred to us may be discussed and decided upon principles of law, justice and reason, and know of none other that ought or can influence the Congress therein.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 647, 657.

We have yet discovered nothing in the Business that can affect the temper or indanger the harmony which we believe subsists between Congress and the state of Pennsylvania.

We do not suppose that the general power of Congress to decide as the last resort in all cases of captures is denied or affected by the opposition given by the Judge of admiralty in Pennsylvania in the case referred to us, the Judge has been requested to certify his reasons; he has declared that the law of the state has made the finding of a Jury conclusive in all matters of fact, without re-examination or appeal, and that he is precluded by this law from enforcing any decree contrary to the verdict of a Jury, he has offered arguments in support of his conduct, and the only question seems to be whether the municipal law of any one state can control or restrain the exercise of the power to decide finally on all cases of captures? This question ought, and we hope will be discussed and decided on principles of law, justice and reason, and we doubt not if it shall be found that the Legislature of Pennsylvania have mistaken or overlooked any principle, and through such mistake or Inadvertance have passed a law which has an injurious effect contrary to their expectation and wishes, the members composing it have too much liberality to persist, and too much temper and good sense to take offence at men who may be by their duty called on to decide. In short we none of us conceive this affair to have proceeded from any thing but those imperfections of human language and human understanding from which no rank or condition of men is exempt, and we have no apprehensions that any evil can arise from the result of the deliberations and decisions of Congress on it. We are exceedingly willing to receive every information possible on the subject, and have appointed to-morrow afternoon to hear whatever the parties may be pleased to suggest; the Committee will meet at the State House at six o'clock.

I am Sir, with great esteem and respect,
your very obed't serv't,

THOS. BURKE.

Directed,

His Excellency Jo's Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

PRESIDENT REED TO THOMAS BURKE, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, January 29th, 1779.

Sir,

I did not receive your favour of yesterday till late last evening, & as the mode pursued by the Committee will I make no doubt be satisfactory to all parties, I trust it will lead to a decision equally satisfactory. The Att'y Genl. of the State will be notified of the time & place as mentioned in your letter—but I fear the former will prove too short, if so the principle upon which it was appointed will doubtless operate for a convenient enlargement. It has been suggested that by the laws of Massachusetts Bay & New Hampshire appeals in many cases of capture are refused, & that particularly a subject of this State in a maritime case was refused an appeal from y^e Court of Admiralty of the latter State. I mention these circumstances as they may lead to a general consideration of this subject, & forming a system of maritime jurisprudence equally binding upon all the states in the Union.

And am Sir,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant.

INVITATION TO FUNERAL OF JAMES YOUNG, 1779.

Brother Matlack,

Please to inform the President and Council that they are particularly desired to attend the funeral of James Young, Esq^r, to meet at his late dwelling on first day next, at three o'clock in the afternoon—this invitation includes the Secretary.

SAM'L WETHERILL, Jr.

January 29th, 1779.

*Directed,*To Timothy Matlack, Esq^r.

See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 677.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress,

29th Jan'y, 1779.

A Letter of this day from D. Franks,* was read, informing that he has applied to the executive council of Pennsylvania for a pass for his clerk, Patrick Rice, to go into New York to settle his accounts as late commissary of the British prisoners, and that the council have referred him to Congress, whereupon

Resolved. That Congress do not object to the Council of this state granting a pass to such of M^r Franks' clerks, to go to and return from New York, on the business mentioned in his letter, as they can confide in, and that such clerk take the directions of general Washington as to the time & manner of his going in.

Extract from the minutes,

OHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

GEN. MCINTOSH TO COL. LOCHRY, 1779.

Fort Pitt, the 29th January, 1779.

Sir,

I am Just informed that Capt. Clark, of the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment, who was sent to Command an Escort to Fort Laurens, as he was returning with a Sergeant & 14 Men, three miles this side of that fort, was attacked by Simon Girty & a party of Mingoes, who killed two of our men, wounded four, & took one prisoner.

I am also informed that a large party of the same people are set off to strike the Inhabitants about Ligonier & Black Leg Creek, & send you this Express to inform you of it, that you may acquaint the neighbourhood, & be upon your Guard.

I am, Sir,

Your most ob^t Serv^t,LACH^r M^rINTOSH.*Directed,*

On Public Service.

To Colonel Lochry, Lieutenant of Westmoreland County.

By Col^r John Campbell.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 683.

PRES. REED TO DELEGATES IN CONGRESS, 1779.

Gentlemen,

We have to request you that whenever any Question shall be put which may affect the Authority or Reputation of this Council, &, more especially in the Case of Gen. Arnold, that you call for the Yeas & Nays, that in our Correspondence with our sister states we may have an opp^r to shew them how far their Delegates in Congress do or do not manifest a Disposition to support the authority of civil Government, & more especially in the Execution of the Resolves of Congress.

I am, Gent.,

Your most obed. H[']ble serv^t,

JOS. REED,

President.

Council Chamber, Jan. 30, 1779.

Directed,

The Hon^r The Delegates of Pennsylv^a.

PETER DE HAVEN TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To the Hon[']ble the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of Peter DeHaven

Humbly sheweth,

Your Petitioner understands that the place of Waggon master General is now vacant, and as he has suffered considerably by the Enemy whilst they were in Town, and being entirely out of business by the breaking up of the Gun Factory, which he hopes was conducted to your Hon^r satisfaction, He, therefore, begs leave to offer himself (if he is so happy as to be thought Capable) for the above vacancy, and your Petitioner will always endeavour to use his utmost care and diligence to perform his Duty to the satisfaction of the Hon[']ble Council and the Publick.

Your Hon^r

Most humble & most obedient servant,

PETER DE HAVEN.

Philadelphia, January 30th, 1779.

GENL. NATH. GREENE TO GOVERNOR REED, 1779.

Col. Mitchel's, 5 o'clock.

January 3d, 1779.

Sir,

Your favor of this day, dated at three o'clock this afternoon, is to me both surprising and unintelligible. I have given no orders respecting the matter you mention. Col. Mitchel shewed me a Letter from General Arnold, and one that he wrote the general upon the subject, endeavoring to fix the principles upon which the party were to be paid for their services, at the same time observing he should obey the General's order, if he gave one. Col. Mitchel waits upon you to give you any further information you may want respecting the business. If there has been any thing done contrary to the honor or Interest of the state, it is a piece of inadvertence and all together without design.*

I have the honor to be, with respect,

Your most obedient humble serv^t,

NATH. GREENE.

Directed,

His Excellency Governor Reed, present.

ROBERT LEVERS TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Easton, January 31st, 1779.

Sir,

In the Month of March last being in extreme difficulty for want of a House to reside in at Easton and to lodge the Public Papers, my Landlord to whom I then paid Thirteen Pounds $\frac{2}{3}$ ann., having given me notice to leave the Premises, I applied to his Excellency the late President for Leave to remove the Prothonotary office to the Town of Northampton, or near it—His Excellency was pleased to lay the matter before Council, and the Council thought proper to permit me to remove the Public Papers to Northampton, or near it, if I could not retain the House in Easton I then occupied, or procure another, as appeared by His Excellency's Favor to me of 21st March last, which I beg Leave to transcribe as follows, viz^t.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XL, p. 680.

" In Council,

" Lancaster, March 21st, 1778.

" Sir,

" This day I received your Letter of the 18th Instant by Col. Dean, which I layed before Council—They are of Opinion, in case you are obliged to remove from the House you now occupy, and cannot procure another in Easton, that Allentown, or near it, will be a convenient Place for Public Papers to be deposited, and therefore can have no objection to your Request. ;

" I am Sir,

" your very humble Servant

" THO. WHARTON, Jr., Pres^t.

" To Robert Levers, Esq^r.

Altho Council had been pleased to condescend to my Request, yet, as it appeared to me more agreeable to Council, that If a House could be obtained in Easton I should continue there, and finding my Landlord not averse to my continuing in the House, if I would consent to pay him One Hundred Pounds for a year's Rent, instead of Thirteen, I had paid the year before. I esteemed it my duty at that time, from the nature of the Permission of Council, to close in with my Landlord, notwithstanding his extortionate Demand, and engaged his House for a year at the hundred Pounds, which year expires the First of next April—Mr. Ehrig, for that is my Landlord's name, has again given me a formal & legal Notice, to surrender the Premises by the 1st April next, alledging he has sold his Farm, and therefore wants the House I now occupy for his own immediate use—Under these circumstances, after every Enquiry, I find it is impossible that I can engage a House in Easton, it is true, I bought a Lot last Spring, with a very small Tenement on it, no ways convenient for a Family, and much less so, where an office of a Public nature is to be kept, intending on this Lot to make an addition for my own accommodation ; but I find by sad Experience that a Building, which a few years ago in this place would not have cost me Eighty Pounds, will now demand one Thousand Pounds, a Sum my Circumstances will not admit of casting away.—I have not the Honor of the least Personal Acquaintance with his Excellency, the President ; I have taken the Liberty to write on the Subject to

the Honorable, the Vice President, and do now earnestly solicit, that you will be pleased to lay my application before the Supreme Executive Council, and favor me with their determination. When I applied to the late President on this Subject, I represented, as truly is the case, that no injury to the Public could ensue from a Permission to the Prothonotary to remove his Office to Northampton, or near it; on the contrary, it will be an advantage, as that Place is nearly in the middle of the County. The inconvenience will be principally to myself, in attending at Court Times at Easton with such Papers as will be necessary, which Inconvenience and Trouble I shall gladly endure. Besides, as I shall then be more immediately among the People at large, than I can now possibly be in this little Corner of the County, I figure to myself it will be much in my Power, as it is ever in my Inclination to render my mite of Services to the Public more generally useful.

Hitherto I have said nothing on the Subject of the Iron—The Fact is thus—After I had left Council, and had received orders to sell the Two Tons of Iron at £200 ^{per} Ton; I had reason to believe when I returned home, that more could be got for it—And after some time, being at the Forge where the Iron was bought & from whence I had not removed it, Mr. Hugh Hughes gave me to understand that he believed, he could get me Three Hundred Pounds ^{per} Ton, and afterwards insured me that Sum, if I would make him some small allowance for his trouble, as he proposed to sell it among the Blacksmiths in his neighbourhood—Upon this I gave him an Order to receive the Iron, and have not yet settled with him, or received any Part of the money—And I thought this was better than selling for £200 a Ton, Especially as Iron seemed then to be advancing.

I am with real Esteem & Regard

Sir, your most obedient

humble Servant

ROBERT LEVERS.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Recommended to the Care of John Okely, Esq^r.

GENL. MAXWELL TO PRES'T REED, 1779.

Elizth Town, 1st Febr, 1779.

Sir,

I was favoured with Yours of the 22^d ult^o two days ago, and I must confess that I am not displeased that the State of Pennsylvania feels some of the bad effects of granting such universal permissions to go to and from the Enemy, though I have done everything in my power to prevent it by examining their Letters, Business, &c^o. Many who had passes not to return again under a notion that they were not able to maintain themselves, in my opinion it would be much better for the State to grant them some assistance than to send them away, for if they get disappointed at New York, as many of them does, they will break out some where and get home again. I have had my own troubles with them, but I hope the impropriety of it is properly seen through, and that no persons will be permitted to pass into the Enemy's Lines, but on very extraordinary occasions, and their business vouched for by some good disinterested person or persons before they obtain their pass. But why need I urge these restrictions? they will then deceive you or any one, though probably not in such numbers.

I verily believe if it were possible for the angels of light and darkness to reside together on this earth, and should those of darkness be about to present a Petition to Heaven, they would get some of the angels of light to vouch for the justness of their Business or intentions. However I am well pleased with the mode you have proposed, and will do every thing in my power to have it carried into execution.

I will do more, Viz., order their names and places of abode to be taken, and send you a Catalogue of them at the end of every month, by which you will be able to judge whether they have comply'd with the Orders. It has been a great loss to us that the arrangement has been so long in coming out, many of the Officers not knowing whether they were included in the arrang^t or not, and others of better hopes did not know what Reg^t they were to be in, which caused a supineness, and spoiled the recruiting of the nine months men. Col^l Martin has, a few days ago, wrote to the Board of War (which I believe was the wrong place,) that from the wound he had received in the service he was some thing infirm at present, and was willing to become the Supernumery Col^l; now the three Col^{ls} are known, the Brigade may be formed immediately, and the other Field Officers can have their Rank settled at any future day. His Excellency will please to Order a Board of Officers for that purpose. I have wrote His Excellency to this same purpose.

and hope the arrangement will be immediately sent up finished as far as it can at present, and let the rest be added afterwards.

I am, Sir, with much respect and Esteem,

Your most Ob't, Humble Servant,

W^m MAXWELL.

Directed,

Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

PRESIDENT REED TO MAJ. GEN'L GREEN, 1779.

Council Chamber,

Feb. 1st, 1779.

Sir,

I have just received your Favour,* & can only say in Answer, that Jordan has sworn to the particulars I mentioned, & as it seems to be the Idea of Congress that we have no Authority to call upon any Persons against whom Complaint is made, in order to inquire into their Conduct; till that point is settled, we do not incline to see any more of their Officers, least we may subject ourselves to farther Inconveniences. Mr. Mitchell's Representation will have its due Weight, if he thinks proper to make it in writing, as I mentioned before.

In the mean Time, by the desire of Council, I request you to send us an Office Transcript of the Entry of these Waggon into the Public service, & of their Discharge; also attested Copies of the Certificates given at the Time, which it appears were made in the first Case, and given in the latter. The 21st October was the Time which I mention, to make the search more easy.

I am, &c.,

J. R., Pres't.

To Major General Green, Quarter Master General.

* See page 175.

PASS FOR DAVID RICE TO NEW YORK, 1779.

Pennsylvania, ss.

The Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

To Brigadier General Maxwell, or Officer commanding on the lines next to the City of New York.

Whereas, Mr. David Franks, late Commissary of British Prisoners, petitioned this Council for a permission to Patrick Rice, his Clerk, to pass into the City of New York to settle the said Commissary's accounts, and the said application having been communicated to the Congress, who were pleased to signify their approbation of the granting the said pass: We do hereby recommend the said Patrick Rice, that he be permitted to pass into the City of New York, and to return again. And in this special case it is recommended that the said Patrick Rice be permitted to pass without delay.

Given, by order of the Council, under the hand of His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President, and the less seal of the State, at Philadelphia, this second day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine.*

Attest.

CAPT. JOHN MCPHERSON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

I am still impressed with the same fears, that I discovered the last time I had the honor of being in your company. I am conscious that was I in General Olintons place, I would compel the inhabitants of Pennsylvania, and the Jerseys, to send to New York, at their own expence every article those States afforded, and that I wanted or I would set every Town on the River Delaware on fire, at least those that Shipping could go to; indeed, every Town in North America. As I sincerely love this country, and the cause you are fighting for, I beg I may have a hearing before your Excellency and Council. I think I can convince you that it is possible to defend this city, &c., with more human certainty, and less expence, then by any method ever yet thought of.

I am, Sir, your most obedient
and very humble Serv^t,

JOHN MACPHERSON.

Philadelphia, 3d of Feb'y, 1779.

Hls Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r.

* See Co'. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 683.

DELEGATES IN CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philad^a, Feb'y 3d, 1779.

Sir,

The Delegates of this State in Congress have just received your Excellency's favour of this date, and I am desired by them to inform the Honorable the Council, through you, that they have not the least reason to think the Military command in this City was changed before General Arnold left it, as no other measures have been taken of their complaint than mentioned in y^r Excellency's Letter, as the Committee on the Business have not yet reported. In behalf of my Colleagues,

I am, most respectfully, y^r Excellency's
most ob^d & very humb. Serv^t,

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

 REPRESENTATION OF L. FARMER AND J. S. HOWELL TO
ASSEMBLY, 1779.

To the Hon^{ble} the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsy^a, in General Assembly met.

The representation of Lewis Farmer, Com^r for purchasing rum, sugar, &c^t, for the Pennsy^a troops, and Jacob S. Howell, Receiver General of Cloathing.

In conformity to orders receiv'd from the Hon^{ble} Council, we have distributed a number of hand bills, adressed to the Merchants and Traders of the City of Phila^a, some of which are Inclos'd, and having since waited upon a number of the Traders to endeavour to purchase the Articles directed by Council, for the use of the Army, beg leave to Represent :

That the Articles ordered to be procured by Lewis Farmer, cannot be purchased under the following prices—rum, £6 7⁶ gall'n; sugar, £76 7⁶ C^t; Tea, £4 10s; 7⁶ lb Tobacco, 7s 6d 7⁶ lb; Coffee, 15s 7⁶ lb; Chocolate, 32s 7⁶ lb; Soap, 12 6 7⁶ lb., and that a sufficient quantity may be had at those prices.

That a sufficient Quantity of Cloths and other necessaries, for Cloathing for Officers, ordered to be purchased by Jacob S. Howell, are not to be had in this City; the few there are, are in the hands of retailers at very high prices. Annexed is an estimate of the cost of Cloth & trimmings for a suit of Cloaths for each Officer of the Penn-

sylvania Line, & a return made by a Committee of Field Officers to the Hon'ble Council, to which beg leave to refer the Hon'ble House for the prices now asked.

We are, Gentlemen, with the greatest respect,

Your Obedient Servants,

LEWIS FARMER,
JACOB S. HOWELL.

Philadelphia, February 6th, 1779.

Estimate of the cost of Cloth & Trimings for a suit of Cloaths for each Officer, belonging to the State of Pennsylvania, & a return from the Committee of Field Officers to the Hon'ble Executive Council.

3 General Officers,	S. F. blue, yds.	70	@	£37 10	£2625
30 Field ditto.	do. white,	70	do.		2625
6 Aids,	do. scarlet,	20	do.		750
3 Brigade Chaplains, 3 suits of black,					390
For lining fine white rattinett,		160	@	£ 9	1440
For ditto. middling fine linnen,		80	@	40s	160
For pockets stayings, &c, coarse do.		20		80s	30
For back lining blue shalloon,		40		£ 4 10s	180
Fine buckram,		20		45s	45
Large white silver top'd Buttons, best kind, doz's,		120		£ 6 15s	810
Small do. do. do. doz's,		120		8 7 6	405
Skirts of blue silk,		60		5s	15
Do. Scarlet,		40		do	10
Do. White,		60		do	15
Sticks of blue twist or Mohair, fine,		20			12 6 12 10
Do. of Scarlet, do.		40		do	25
Do. of White,		40		do	25
The above for the General & Field Officers.					
60 Captains,	Fine blue,	380		£37 10	14250
120 Subalterns,	Do. white,	380		do	14250
20 Surg ^{ns} & Mates	Do. scarlet,	110		do	4125
Fine lineings white shalloons or rattinett,		800		£ 9	7200
For back lineings blue shalloons,		200		4 10	900
Coarse linnens for pockets & stayings,		100		80s	150
Middling fine linnen for lining the white Cloth,		400		40s	800
Buckram.		100		45s	225
Large white silver top'd buttons, doz.		600		£ 6 15	4050
Small white do. doz.		600		8 7 6	2025
Skeins blue silk,		800		5s	75
Do. of scarlet,		200		do	50

Skeins of white,	.	.	.	300	5s	£75
Sticks of blue twist,	.	.	.	150	12 6	98 15
Do. scarlet,	.	.	.	200	do	125
Do. of white twist,	.	.	.	200	do	125
Blue Thread, 10 lbs.	}	25 lbs.	lb 25	£ 5		125
White do. 10 lbs.						
Red do. 5 lbs.						
Superfine worsted Hose, pairs,			500	6		3000
Do. thread do. do.			500	do		3000
Linen for three shirts & 9 picce, yds.,			2625	8 10		9187
Fine Cambric for ruffling, do.			125	10		1250
Fine holland for stocks, do.			250	4 10s		1125
Beaver hatts,	.	.	250	22 10		5625
Pairs of boots,	.	.	250	18		4500
Pairs of shoes,	.	.	500	5 12 6		2812 10
						£88706 5

JACOB S. HOWELL,

Rec^r Gen^l of Cloath'g for Pen^a.Philad^a, February 6th, 1779.*Indorsed.*

Feb. 8, 1779. Read and ordered to lie on the Table.

CIRCULAR OF COUNCIL TO THE OTHER STATES, 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a, Feb^ry 6th, 1779.

Sir,

The necessity of preserving the Dignity & Security of civil Government, & guarding the good people of these States against all Abuses of Power, has induced us (though with great reluctance, considering the services & sufferings of the subject of them,) to come into the inclosed Resolves, and also to forward them to your Excell^y to be communicated to the legislature of your State. We do assure you, Sir, that every Abuse of Power & disrespectful treatment of a Sister State will ever be reprobated by the authority of Pennsylvania.

We have now only to add, that on the 25 of Jan^r last, we communicated to the Hon^e Continental Congress, the 5th Article of Charge in the inclosed, & on the 29th Jan^r last the 6th Article, at the same time acquainting them that other Transactions were under consideration, which would in due time be presented, & as General Arnold was about to leave this State immediately on a Pretence of private

Business, it was requested that he might be detained to answer the Charges, but he is departed from this State pending the Complaints, & when the Proofs were ready to be exhibited.*

Our reverence for the Hon^d Congress, induces us to form the most favourable constructions of every Part of their Proceedings, & in this Instance to suppose that Considerations of greater Moment to these United States than affecting a particular State, have engrossed their attention, so as to occasion no other measure than appointing a Committee. That General Arnold might not be unacquainted with our Sentiments respecting him, we furnished him with the first Copy.

I am, Sir, respectfully,
Your most obed. Hbble Serv^t.

GENL. ROBERDEAU TO T. MATLACK, SEC'Y, 1779.

D^r Sir,

Have you remembered to present the President of Congress with the hand Bill? the one directed to the Delegates of N. York was delivered to another Member of that State, from the hint you gave of y^r Intention to furnish the President. This to remind you we pray excuse.

Y^{rs}

D. ROBERDEAU.

Saturday, 6th February, 1779.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Sec'y.

DELEGATES IN CONGRESS FROM VIRGINIA TO PRES. REED,
1779.

Philadelphia, Feb. 6th, 1779.

Sir,

The underwritten, Delegates in Congress for the State of Virginia, pursuant to their Instructions, inclose you herein the Resolves of the

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XL, p. 674.

Gen'l Assembly of that State, which they request you to lay before the Legislature of this State.

We are very respectfully,

Sir,

Your most obed^t Serv^t,

THO'S ADAMS,

MERIWETHER SMITH,

CYRUS GRIFFIN.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

COUNCIL TO THE NAVAL OFFICER, 1779.

Sir,

I am directed by the Council to inform you, that it is not the intention of Council, at present, to lay any restraint on the clearing out of Vessels from this port,

Yours, &c.,

Feb'y 6, 1779.

To Dr. F. Phyle, Naval Officer.

PRES. REED TO MONS. GERARD, 1779.

Council Chamber, Feb. 8, 1779.

Sir,

The Inquiry respecting the supposed Death of a French Gentleman, by the Hands of Capt. Dougherty, being compleated & it now appearing that there was no just foundation for the Report.—By the Desire of this Board, I beg Leave to thank your Honour for your Attention & polite answer to the Application of the Council on this Subject, &

I am, with every Sentiment of Respect & Esteem,

Your Honour's most obed.

& very Hb'ble Ser.,

J. R., Pres't.

Humble The Sieur Gerard, Minister Plenipotentiary of His most Christian Majesty.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 691.

BERNARD DOUGHERTY TO SEC'Y MATLACK, 1779.

Sir,

Some few Days since, I wrote a few Lines to Mr. Scott of the Honourable Council, relating to one Mr. Culbertson, of Bedford County; I find Mr. Scott is gone, and as yet I do not learn that he has left me any answer.

Being therefore in the dark with respect to Mr. Culbertson's Case, w^{ch} in my Opinion is interesting (at least greatly so to him,) and finding those few Lines (I wrote to Mr. Scott) lying on the Committee Table in the adjacent Room makes me uneasy.

I beg you will please to set me right in this affair, and let me know where such Papers, as were inclosed to Mr. Scott, are.

I am, Sir,

Your most Obed^t Serv^t,

BERNARD DOUGHERTY.

Feb. 6th, 1779

Directed,

Colonel Matlack, Present.

PETITION JOHN MOORE, &C., TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To the Honourable Counsel of the state of Pennsylv^a And County of Philad^a.

To all whom it may Concern this Comes Greeting, to let your Honours know the Distress of our Country In Regard of Bread, is as follows, viz. : there is Wheat plenty, But there is so many distressed people that will not sell their grain without hard money, and it chiefly lays in the Hands of such people, Especially in the township of Whitemarsh. There is great plenty of wheat, but not a handfull to be sold for Continental money, so we, your humble petitioners, Beg the favours of your honours to take our Lamentable Case Into a serious Consideration, as our Case is Lamentable. Our Wives and Children must starve unless your Honours will Be pleased to grant your faithfull subjects some Relief, as We always have been Ready and willing to do our duty in Every Respect, and Ever will be, therefore we, your humble petitioners, begs the favour of your Honours to bless us, your humble petitioners, with Relief; if it is your honours pleasure to bless us, we shall for Ever pray for your honours. To set a Reasonable price on wheat, pr. bushels, as

we, your faithfull subjects, can live, and we shall Ever bless your Honours.

John Moor,
W^m Johnstone, Capt. 5 B. P.,
Benjamin Knows, Lieut. 5 B. P.,
John Hamilton, Capt. 5 B. P.,
Peter Horn, Lieut. 5 B. P.,
Jacob Peterman,
Henry O'Nail,
George Miller, Major,
John Johnston,

Frederick Searn,
Jacob Houser,
Frederick Gilbert,
Peter Gilbert,
David Davis,
John Wolf,
Isaac Lyle,
Jacob Shaffer,
John Holman.

February y^e 8th, 1779.

MARINE COMMITTEE TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Marine Committee,

Feb'y 9th, 1779.

Sir,

We have received your Excellency's letter relative to the Cutter Revenge, and are taking measures to give you an immediate answer.

We have the honour to be

Your Excellencys most

obedient hble. servants,

RICHARD HENRY LEE, Ch^r.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of Pennsylvania.

FORM OF RESOLUTIONS OF HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES TO CONGRESS, 1779.

The House taking the state of their Finances into Consideration,
Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to bring in a memorial to Congress, requesting them to grant upon Loan, to the state, such sums of current money as the Exigencies of the state shall require, until sufficient sums shall be drawn into the Treasury by the Taxes laid & to be laid by assembly, and assuring Congress that the sums which they shall so advance shall be repaid out of the first Taxes that shall be brought in, without any Regard to the Accounts now depending between this state & Congress.

Resolved, That the s^d Committee be authorized to apply to the Hon^{ble} the Supreme Executive Council to appoint a Committee of

their Board to confer with them on the subject of the above Resolve, & that they be also empowered to apply for a Committee of the Hon'ble Congress to confer with them, if necessary, on the same subject.*

Mr. Morris, Biddle, Gardner, Ralston, Lollar, Smiley, Chambers.	}	Committee.
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Feb'y 9, 1779.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Head Quarters, Middle Broek,
9th February, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honor of your Excellency's fav^r of the 5th instant, inclosing sundry Resolves of the Executive Council respecting the Conduct of Major General Arnold during his command in Philadelphia.

Previous to the receipt of your letter, Gen^l Arnold, who had arrived at Head Quarters the day before, had shewn me a letter from the Council accompanied by a Copy of the same Resolves, in which they advised him that a Copy was also laid before Congress. That Honorable Body will no doubt decide upon the measures proper to be taken in the Affair.

I should have replied to yours of the 19th January respecting Col^o Atlee's claim to Rank, before I left Philadelphia, had I not understood by a paper which was afterwards put into my hands, that the Delegates of Pennsylvania were instructed by the Council to represent the matter to Congress,

I have a high opinion of Col^o Atlee's merit and abilities as an Officer, but I do not see how he can be at this time promoted to the Rank of Brigadier. As the State have only two Brigades in the field, they of course will only require two Brigadiers. They already have one—Gen^l Wayne—supposing Gen^l Hand to be out of the question. To supply the place of the other, Colonels Morgan and Irwin, being senior officers, have superior pretensions to Col^o Atlee. If in the Captivity of Col^o Morgan it is thought necessary to fill the

* Not on minutes of Council.

place with another, Col^d Irwin will by right of seniority be the person.

I have the honor to be
with great Respect & Esteem
your Excellency's
most ob^t Serv^t,
G^d WASHINGTON.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r.

PRESIDENT REED TO JOHN BAYARD, Esq., 1779.

In Council,
Philadelphia, February 9th, 1779.

Sir,

Since the delivery of the papers to your Honble House which accompanied our message on the fifth of Feb^r Instant, the delegates of Virginia have delivered into this Board farther papers on the subject of the disputed Boundary, which I now do myself the honor of enclosing, and am, Sir,

your most obedient and very
humble servant,
JOSEPH REED, President.*

COUNCIL TO JOHN MITCHELL, 1779.

Sir,

I am directed by the Council to request that you will give order to prevent the waggons in Continental service from stoping in the Front of the State House, as this practice gives offence both to the House of Assembly and to Council. There is now a number of waggons standing there.

I am with due respect,
your humble servant,

T^r MATLACK, Sec^r.

Philadelphia, Feb^r 10, 1779.

To John Mitchell, Esq^r, D. Q. M. G.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 693.

GEORGE HENRY TO COUNCIL, 1779.

His Excellency the President and Council.

Agreeable to your order of yesterday I have made inquiry respecting the arms, stores, &c., said to be sent by Mr Andrew Hodge to this State. From what I can learn, am of opinion that none of those effects were borrowed by the State from Mr. Hodge.

The Facts appears to be as follows :

The day previous to the enemy taking possession of this city, young Mr. Hodge applied to Captain Mitchell's Lieutenant, who was then in an armed boat at Mr. Hodge's wharf, to take the following articles on board the Boat, to prevent their falling into the enemy's hands, which the Lieutenant complied with, and for their greater safety put them on board Captain Mitchell's Galley.

From the Lieutenant's information, the other articles, you mentioned, were not received.

I shall wait and obey Councils future orders respecting them.

I have the honor to be,

your most obedient humble servt,

GEORGE HENRY.

Philadelphia, Febr 11th, 1779.

22 Cutlasses.
9 Cartoush boxes.
5 Guns.
12 Pikes.
12 Bayonets.

Directed,

To his Excellency the President and Council of the State of Pennsylvania,

LEWIS NICOLA TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Sr,

My having made this my country by a free election, the generous & humane treatment I have met therein, in the days of adversity, together with the honour of being employed in the service of this State, as well as of the United States, oblige me indispensably to contribute every thing in my power to the good thereof.

My Education & the studies of my life, which I flatter myself have neither been neglected or lost labour, having been directed to

military considerations, I presume it is in that line I can render most service.

A point of importance to the confederacy, but more immediately to this State, particularly to its capital, & which has often been an object of publick consideration, was lately introduced to the world in the newspapers, by two gentlemen who have, as far as I can judge, sometimes mistaken facts, & misapplied reasonings, reconsidering the subject may not, I apprehend, be amiss. This I, at first, proposed, submitting to the consideration of the publick, as the best means by which true conclusions, the only object I have in view, can be come at; but as this mode communicates information to enemies as well as friends, I think it best to submit it to the consideration of your Excellency and the Hon'ble Council, & leave this point to your & their determination. This, I hope, will apologise for the liberty I take, & that you will permit me to assure your excellency that I am, with due respect,

Sir,

your most humb^e

& obd^t servant,

LEWIS NICOLA.

I hope you'll excuse the many erasures in the piece, owing to repeated interruptions by persons coming to my office.

February 12th, 1779.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

ASSEMBLY TO COUNCIL, 1779.

In General Assembly,

Saturday, Feb. 13^a, 1779.

On motion,

Resolved,

That Mr. Smiley be requested to wait on The Honorable The Council, and inform them, that the Defence of the Frontiers of this State and of the River Delaware are matters of the utmost importance to the good People thereof; Therefore this House request a conference with the Supreme Executive Council on that subject on monday next.

Extract from the minutes.

SAM. STERETT, Asia^t Cl^k

of Gen. Assembly.

GEN. ROBERDEAU TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philad^a, Feb. 18th, 1779.

Sir,

Congress have now under Consideration the report of the Committee of appeals. On this important Subject the Delegates of this State would be glad of your advice, which I am desirous to ask on their behalf. & am,

Sir,

Y^r most ob^t hum. Serv^t,

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

P.S. We can put off the Business in right of the State if advised

T. MATLACK TO WM. MACLAY, ESQ., 1779.

My Dear Friend,

In answer to yours of the first instant, I can only say, that no complaints of any kind have been made against your brother, and that you may safely depend, Council will not precipitately remove any man from office unheard. My friendship you will have on every occasion.

There is intelligence from Spain, that She will take part with France in case of a continuance of the present hostilities on the part of Great Britain. The particulars on which this inference of news is drawn, were this day communicated to Congress by the Minister of France, but they have not yet transpired.

A small privateer has been taken by Cap. Douglas, of this port, and Carried into Egg Harbour. It is also said, that two French Frigates have taken five or six of the enemy's privateers, but there is no certainty of it.

I have, for some time past, had some reasons to expect several Frigates would fall in about Egg harbour and scour the coast southward and retire, to prevent a superior force from the enemy intercepting them.

Rum and several other articles, even including Gold, have, within a few days, fallen in value, comparative with Continental money, near twenty-five per cent.

WARRANT TO SHERIFF, 1779.

[L. s.] Pennsylvania ss.

The Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, To James Claypoole, Esq^r, Sheriff of the City and County of Philadelphia.

Whereas it appeareth on oath before this Council that George Eichelberger, of York-town, in the county of York, a deputy Commissary of purchases under the United States of America, having at the last election of the county of York for chusing a Councillor to represent the said county of York in this Council, used angry and threatening language to influence the Judges and Inspectors for the first district of the said county, then assembled in the Court House of the said county, and having afterwards, to wit, on the 16th of October, at a meeting of the Judges of the several districts of the said county assembled for the purpose of casting up the votes taken in the several districts of the said county and making return to this Council of the person elected to represent the said county of York in the Supreme Executive Council, did intrude himself, violently and forcibly, among the said Judges, and dictated to them in what manner they should proceed in making the said return; And upon divers of the said Judges refusing to act agreeably to his directions, he, the said George Eichelberger, did call them, the said Judges so refusing, perjured rascals, and declared that they the said Judges should be sued with an hundred writs before they left York-town—with other threatening and abusive language in violation of the Freedom of election and in breach of the privileges of this Council.

Wherefore you are hereby commanded to take the body of the said George Eichelberger, if found in your county, and bring him before this Council forthwith, to be dealt with according to law.

Hereof fail not.

Given, by order of Council, under the hand of His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, and the less seal of the State, at Philadelphia, this sixteenth day of February, A. D. 1779.*

Attest.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 698, 700.

GEN. ROBERDEAU TO JOHN BAYARD, Esq., 1779.

Philada. Feb'y 16th, 1779.

Sir,

The Instructions to the Delegates of this State in Congress, from a Committee of your Honorable House respecting the defenceless Situation of our Frontiers, is referred "to the Committee lately appointed to confer with the Commander in Chief, and that they be directed to confer with a Committee of the Assembly of Pennsylvania."

Mr. Duane, Chairman of said Committee, requests through me, that he may be notified of the appointment of such Committee, and when and where they will hold the Conference.

I am with high esteem,

Sir, y^r most

ob^t hum. Serv^t,

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Mr. Duane lodges at Mrs. House's.

Directed,

^{For} The Honorable John Bayard, Esquire, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania.

SEC'Y MATLACK TO JESSE JORDAN, 1779.

Philadelphia, Feb'y 18th, 1779.

Sir,

Major General Arnold is now in this city, and no time ought to be lost in obtaining the settlement with him for the waggon hire of the brigade which he sent to Egg harbour. You will, therefore, without delay, send an order to Jonathan D. Sergeant, Esquire, to commence suits for the recovery of it, that you be able in good time to repay the money advanced to you by Council. It will be necessary to send the names of the several persons, owners of the waggons, or perhaps it will be best for you to come to the City yourself if you conveniently can. There can be no doubt in my opinion, but that you will recover of the General the price paid to other waggons, who were hired by private persons for like services—which I understand was about £80 for the trip to each waggon.

I am, &c., yours,

T. M.

Directed,

To Mr. Jesse Jordan, W. M.

PETER DEHAVEN TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To the Hon'ble the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.
Feb'y 18, 1779.

Gentlemen,

The Hon'ble the Committee of Assembly appointed to settle the Publick Acc'ts, having examined the Acc'ts & Vouchers of your late Gun factory are not willing to give an order for the balance due by said acc'ts to me, untill they are informed from your Honourable Board how the outstanding Debts are to be accounted for your giving such directions as may be agreeable to you,

Will much oblige

your most obed^t

& most humble serv^t,

PETER DEHAVEN.*

Indorsement,

Ord^t that Peter Dehaven be authorized to collect the outstanding Debts of the Factory without delay.

J. R.

RESOLVE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1779.

In General Assembly,

Saturday Feb'y 20th, 1779.

Three Petitions from Northampton County Complaining of the conduct of Colonel Weitzel, Lieutenant of that County, were read and ordered to be referred to the Council.

Extract from the minutes,

JOHN MORRIS, Jr.

Clk of Gen^l Ass.†

N. B. Mr. J. Morris brought in two petitions to the Council and excused himself as to third by saying it was lost.

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Feb'y 20, 1779.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 702.

† Col. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 708, 705.

CHARLES PETTIT TO PRES'T REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 20th February, 1779.

Sir,

I had imagined that the Business relating to the Bridge over Schuylkill, was settled by Agreement between your Excellency and the Council on the one part, and Gen. Greene as Quarter Master General on the other; but finding that some matters yet remain to be explained, I would beg leave to propose the following Plan for a final settlement.

1st. That the Bridge be taken into entire Possession and kept in Repair by the officers of the State of Pennsylvania.

2d. That the Council agree to pay to the Quarter Master Gen., all such sums of Money as he has expended in behalf of the United States in rebuilding or repairing the Bridges, to be computed at the Rates of Labour and Materials at the Time of the Transaction. I mention this as the only sure way of ascertaining it, the work having been done amongst other things by People on monthly Pay, and the Iron drawn from the continental Stores.

3d. That the Quarter Master General agree to pay to the State at the Rate of Eight hundred Pounds per Annum as a Rent for the Privilege of using the said Bridge free from any toll or Impost for the Passage of all Carriages, Horses, Cattle and Troops belonging to the United States or in their Service during the Continuance of the said Rent, that is to say, from the Time the said Bridge became passable after the Enemy left the City to the first Day of March 1780.

4th. As to certain Anchors, Cables and other Materials left by the Enemy at or near the said Bridge, some of which have been taken away and applied to other Purposes by the Quarter Master General, as it does not seem to be fully ascertained whether they are to be considered as the Property of this State or of the United States I would propose that for the Present an account be taken ascertaining the Kinds, Quantity and Value of the Articles as accurately as possible, a Copy of which to be lodged with each Party; and when the Property shall be determined, if it shall be in favour of the State of Pennsylvania that the Quarter Master General shall pay to the State the Value of such Articles as have been applied by him to other Purposes than the Bridge; but if the Determination shall be in favour of the United States, that the State of Pennsylvania pay to the Quarter Master General the Value of such of the said Articles as have been applied to the use of the Bridge.

These Points being established, what remains I conceive may be settled without Difficulty, and your Excellency may rest assured of a Disposition on my part to have the Business adjusted with the utmost candor.

It may not be amiss on this Occasion to acquaint you that Major

Eyre, who is superintendant of the Naval Business of the Quarter Master General's Department, informs me that some Money and a good deal of Labour and Materials have been expended on some of the Gallies, and in endeavouring to raise others of the State Vessels. Whether this is to be repaid by the State or not, may perhaps remain to be determined; but I conceive it to be my duty to mention it for farther Notice. It may not be proper to blend these Affairs with those of the Bridge; but the Commissioners who shall be authorized to settle other Matters of Claim between the United States and Pennsylvania may perhaps have this committed to their Consideration.

I have the Honour to be,
with great Respect, your
Excellency's most
obedient humble Servant,
CHA. PETTIT, A. Q. M. Gen.

Indorsed,

Read & ord^d to be filed.

Directed.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

PRES'T REED TO THE GOV'RS OF NEW JERSEY, &c., 1779.

Philada. Feb'y 21, 1779.

Sir,

The severe Depredations lately committed by the Enemy upon our Coast & in our River, has very justly alarmed the Authority of the State, as well as the Merchants who are more immediately interested. And as we apprehend a seasonable & vigorous exertion will give them a Check we are resolved to make it with all possible Dispatch. In the present scarcity of Seamen we apprehend it will be indispensably necessary to secure them by laying an Embargo on all outward Bound Vessels untill we can man the Vessels necessary for the Purpose. But this will be a very partial & ineffectual Remedy, unless the neighboring States concur with us in the Measure.

I am therefore to request your Excell'y to lay the Proposition before the proper Authority of the State over which you preside & to request a Union of Councils & Force as far as circumstances will admit—Assuring you that our operations will be extended beyond the immediate local views & Reach of the State, if thereby the Designs of the Enemy may be more effectually counteracted & defeated.

I have now only to acquaint your Excell'y that from late advices we are not likely to receive any Assistance from the Deane Frigate on this Occasion as she has gone to cruize in the latitude of Bermudas, instead of keeping the Coast as was expected.

I shall be glad to hear from your Excell'y on this subject as soon as possible & am,

Sir, with much Respect,
your Excell'ys most
obed. & very Hbble serv^t.

Sent to,

One Letter for Gov. Livingston,
do. for Gov. Johnston,
do. for Gov. Henry.
do. for Gov. of Del.

GENERAL ROBERDEAU TO V. P. BRYAN, 1779.

Monday Morning.

Sir,

Be pleased to furnish me with the Date of the Resolution respecting the papers laid before Congress by the Supreme Executive Council, said in the Journal to be from T. Matlack.

I am respectfully, Sir,
Y^r most ob^t hum^e serv^t,
D. ROBERDEAU.

Feb'y 21, 1779.

Directed,

The Honorable George Bryan, Esq^r., Vice President.

Indorsed,

Date of the paper enquired for, is 13 July, 1779.

COUNCIL TO MESSRS. IRWIN, BARCLAY, &C., 1779.

Philadelphia, February 21st, 1779.

Gentlemen,

The severe depredations lately committed by the enemy upon our trade has given a very just alarm, not only to the authority of the state, but to the merchants who are more immediately interested in it. And as we apprehend a seasonable and vigorous exertion will give them a check, we are resolved to make it with all possible dispatch. It is represented to me that you have a vessel now nearly ready to launch, which in our circumstances will answer our purpose better

than any other now to be procured. I am, therefore, to request, in behalf of the state, that you will accommodate the publick with her, on as reasonable Terms as you can afford. And that our mutual views and expectations may be more precisely defined, I beg your free and early answer to the following Propositions :

1st. Whether you will sell or hire her to the State, with such rigging and other articles as may be provided, and on what terms respectively.

2nd. In what manner you would propose a valuation to be had if it should be necessary.

3rdly. What sum of money you will expect to be immediately advanced.

Directed,

To Messrs. Irwin, Barclay, Coxe, Mitchell and Company, owners of a vessel building at Kensington.*

PRES. REED TO BARON STEUBEN, &c., 1779.

Feb'y 21, 1779.

Sir,

The season of Weather growing favourable to attend to the Defence of the River & City, I shall take it as a particular Favour if you would accompany me on this service this week. It is proposed to cross with our Horses at Gloucester Point, on Tuesday Morning, if the Weather will admit, & proceed from thence to Red Bank & Billings Port, crossing over from thence to Mud Island, and the Pennsylvania shore, so as to complete the whole survey before we return to Town again.

As your good Judgment & Experience may suggest Remedies for former Defects, & perhaps some new Measures for the greater security of this important City, I hope you will not find any Inconvenience in devoting 2 or 3 days to so valuable a Purpose.

I am, sir,

Your most obed. & very

H'ble servt.

Directed,

To Baron Steuben, Gen' Du Portail, Col. Nichola, Col. Proctor, M^r Rittenhouse, Capt. Hazelwood.

* See page 210.

PRES. REED TO WM. CRISPIN, 1779.

Philad^a, February 21st, 1779.

Sir,

I propose to set out on Tuesday morning, if the weather is favourable, with several gentlemen of skill and Experience, to examine the defences of the river and see what may be farther necessary for our security and defence. I would, therefore, desire you to provide suitable refreshments to be taken with us or sent down in the Boats, under the direction of Captain Boys. There will be about 6 or 7 gentlemen with their attendants, and do not expect to return in less than three days.

If you could despatch some intelligent young fellow into the Neighbourhood of Red bank and Billingsport, to make some little preparation, it might be very proper, and supply him with money for the purpose.

The crews of the boats which are to attend us will also require your care. Captain Boys will be more particular.

Your attention hereto will oblige

Sir, your most obedient

and very humble servant,

JOS. REED.

Directed,

To W^m Crispin, Com'y.

PRES. REED TO CAP. NATHAN BOYS, 1779.Philadelphia, February 21st, 1779.

Sir,

I propose to set out on Tuesday morning, if the weather will admit, with private Gentlemen of skill and experience, to examine the present defences of the river and see what further may be necessary for our security. I must therefore request you to give directions to fit out as many boats as may be necessary for the accomodation of six Gentlemen with their necessary attendants. We shall cross over with our horses at Gloucester point and proceed from thence to Red Bank, and so from thence to Billingsport, at both which places I would chuse the boats should attend, from thence we shall cross with our horses to the Pennsylvania side.

I would wish the boats to be provided with Line for sounding the depths of the river in different places.

Mr. Crispin will have orders to supply the boats with suitable refreshments as you shall direct.

I am, &c.

SEC'Y MATLACK TO JOHN DUNLAP, &c., 1779.

Mr. Dunlap,

Please to republish in your next paper the order of Council of the 29th December last, published in your paper of Jan'y 2^d, with the following addition, by way of Note,—

The great fire which alarmed this city on Saturday last, and threatened the destruction of a valuable part of the city, shows the necessity of the foregoing recommendation; and the Vigilance and attention of some of the Fire companies whose Engines were in good order does them honour, and it is hoped, that every Fire company in the city will take care to follow their laudable example and show to the world a continuation of the same public spirit which has, on occasions of this kind, so long and so eminently distinguished the citizens of Philadelphia.*

Feb'y 1779.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, Feb'y 22^d, 1779.

Sir,

General Du Portail, is about executing the Orders of the Com. in Chief, in taking a survey of the Delaware and preparing a plan of Fortification. He wants some Person capable of giving information & directing the Workmen necessary for sounding the River & other Business. A sloop & twelve or fourteen hands will also be necessary. We have it not in our power to comply with his Request, but have recommended it to him to apply to the Council of the State for such assistance as they can give, & we will afford every thing we can.

We have received no orders from Congress on the Subject, but trouble your Excellency with this to expedite General Du Portail, in his Execution of the orders he has received from the Com. in Chief.

We have the Honour to be,

With great Respect,

Your very obed. Serv^{ts},

RICHARD PETERS,

By Order.

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Excellency the President of Pennsylvania.

Indorsed,

"Read in Council, Feb. 23. Ordered that Cap. Boys be directed to give such assistance to the Board of War as they may require & he be able to give."

* See page 134.

BOARD OF WAR, TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, Feb'y 22, 1779.

Sir,

Applications are frequently made to this board, for matters immediately concerning the militia of your State, which we conceive more properly fall under the notice of the Supreme Executive Council. The particular occasion of this letter, is the presentation of an account for the repairs of arms belonging to this State, which were put into the hands of the militia of Bedford county, but wanted repairs, which were made before they were issued. We feel every disposition to promote the general good by serving a particular State; but believe justice will be done to the public & individuals more effectually if the affairs of the militia are managed by the governing powers of the State to which they belong. Afterwards, such expences as ought to be defrayed by the United States, may be charged to them accordingly. We beg leave therefore to refer to your Excellency and your honourable board the account above-mentioned, with this assurance, that whenever an act of ours, as officers of the United States, shall be thought necessary, we shall cheerfully do it.

We have the honour to be,

with great respect,

Your Excellency's

most obedient Servants,

By order of the board,

TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

PRES. REED TO ASSEMBLY, 1779.

In Council,

Ph^a, 23^d Feb. 1779.

Sir,

Several members of this board, who were present in *July* last, when M^{rs} Elizabeth Ferguson layed her case before the Council, represent to me, that some sentences contained in her petition to the Assembly, of the 7th Instant, which they have seen at large in the printed minutes of your House, give an account of the conduct of

this board, on occasion of that Lady's application to Council, very different from their apprehensions of it.

Her memorial, wherein she laboured to shew, that Mr. F. ought not to be considered as a Traitor, nor even inimical to this Country, they declare was barely read. Whatever Council might think of her petition, or her difficulties, they expressed nothing. It was not considered, as beyond the reach of the Executive authority to restore her husband, both as to person & Estate, but it was very distant from their intention to do it. How, then, could they refer Mr. F. to the Legislature! In fact, Council, these members alledge, gave no answer whatever to her memorial.

This account of the matter is established by the minutes of Council of the 26th of July* last, & afterwards; & by the representation made by this lady, signed by herself. No entry or memorandum, other than of reading her memorial, appears in either.

JOSEPH REED,

President.

LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Feb'y 23, 1779.

Sr,

I am favoured with yours, & shall with pleasure attend your Excellency at any time you choose, as I shall always think it my duty to contribute every thing in my power to your satisfaction on the public utility.

I am, with respect,

Your Excel.

Most hum^l & obed^t Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA.

Sunday evening,

Directed,

To his Excel^y Joseph Reed, President of the State.

* Should probably be June 26th, 1778, Vol. VI. pp. 617, 618. Also Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 622.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress,

24th Feb'y, 1779.

Congress took into consideration the letter of 29th January, from the Supreme executive Council of Pennsylvania, and the papers therein enclosed, whereupon it was moved

That in the opinion of Congress, Major Clarkson ought to have attended the executive Council upon their request of the 25th Jan'y,* 1779, unless prevented by his military duties or some good & sufficient reason, in which case he ought to have assigned his reasons to the said Council.

A motion was made that the words "Unless prevented, &c.," to the end, be struck out, and on the question that those words stand as part of the resolution, the yeas & nays† being required by Mr. Morris :

New Hampshire	Mr. Whipple, No.	} No.
Massachusetts Bay	Mr. S. Adams, No.	} No.
	Gerry, No.	
	Holton, No.	
Rhode Island	Mr. Ellery, Ay.	} Ay.
New York	Mr. Jay, No.	} Ay.
	Morris, Ay.	
	Floyd, Ay.	
New Jersey	Mr. Witherspoon, No.	} No.
	Frelinghuysen, No.	
Pennsylvania	Mr. Clingan, No.	} No.
	Shippen, No.	
	Atlee, No.	
	Searle, No.	
Delaware	Mr. M ^c Kean, No.	} No.
Virginia	Mr. T. Adams, Ay.	} No.
	F. L. Lee, No.	
	M. Smith, No.	
	R. H. Lee, No.	
North Carolina	Griffin, Ay.	} Tie.
	Mr. Penn, Ay.	
South Carolina	Burke, No.	} Tie.
	Mr. Drayton, Ay.	
	Hutson, No.	
Georgia	Mr. Langworthy, Ay.	} Ay.

So it passed in the negative, and the words were struck out.

On the question put to agree to the resolution, as amended, the yeas & nays being required by Mr. Burke and Mr. Searle :

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 676.

† This Vol., p. 174.

New Hampshire	Mr. Whipple, Ay.	} Ay.
Massachusetts Bay	Mr. S. Adams, Ay.	} Ay.
	Gerry, Ay.	
	Holton, Ay.	
Rhode Island	Mr. Ellery, No.	} No.
Connecticut	Mr. Root, Ay.	} M.
New York	Mr. Jay, No.	} No.
	Morris, No.	
	Floyd, No.	
	Lewis, No.	
New Jersey	Mr. Witherspoon, Ay.	} Ay.
	Frelinghuysen, Ay.	
	Fell, Ay.	
Pennsylvania	Mr. Clingan, Ay.	} Ay.
	Shippen, Ay.	
	Atlee, Ay.	
	Searle, Ay.	
Delaware	Mr. McKean, Ay.	} Ay.
Maryland	Mr. Paca, Ay.	} Tie.
	Carmichael, No.	
Virginia	Mr. T. Adams, No.	} No.
	F. L. Lee, Ay.	
	M. Smith, No.	
	R. H. Lee, Ay.	
North Carolina	Griffin, No.	} No.
	Mr. Penn, No.	
	Burke, No.	
South Carolina	Mr. Drayton, No.	} Tie.
	Hutson, Ay.	
Georgia	Mr. Langworthy, No.	} No.

A doubt being raised whether one member can represent and give the vote of the state of Connecticut, the credentials of the delegates of that state, dated October 21st, 1778, were called for and read, and on the question put,

Resolved. That, by the said credentials, not less than two can represent the state of Connecticut in Congress.

So the states being equally divided, the question was lost.

Resolved. That the letter of the 27th January, 1779, from Major M. Clarkson to the said Council, contains indecent and improper expressions, which Congress do highly disapprove of, &

Resolved. That Congress will not countenance any military officer in disrespectful conduct to the civil magistracy.

Resolved. That the further consideration of the subject be postponed till to-morrow.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA^s THOMSON, Sec'y.*

SAML. LOUDON TO SEC'Y MATLACK, 1779.

Fishkill, 25 Feb., 1779.

Sir,

Agreeable to your desire, thy Paper shall be sent to you. I have published but few Papers for the past three months, owing to scarcity of Paper, but now have a parcel on the way hither, and in two weeks shall begin to forward them to you.

I am, &c,

Your h'ble serv't,

SAM. LOUDON.*

Directed,

Tim'y Matlack, Esq., Philadelphia.

W. SCOTT & R. STEVENSON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

May it Pleas your Excelency,

The friends to our Constitution here join us in returning our hearty thank for your candid and impartial hearing and determining the dispute concerning our late Election, we are happy in finding One Presideing in Executive Council who is able and willing, both with direction and Example, to encourage us in the duty we owe to our Contery. We are informed by our Neighbours who were at the trial, that they expected the Assembly would not have put the dispute to Vote until they wou^d have had a conference with Council. But after all that has passed, we hope there is a possibility of an other hearing, as the House of Assembly have it in their Power to reconsider their Proceedings before they adjourn this sitting.

The People here who are disaffected to our present Constitution, are in high spirits on account of their Representatives having leave to take their seats, and say they now have nothing to fear, and that they will soon have day about with us, as they are already relieved from all disabilities formerly laid on them, except that of Election and Juries, which two last mentioned disabilities they look upon as a great advantage; they are now preparing Petitions to Assembly, Praying to have those Persons who have sworn alegience since the first of June last, Excused from taking the late prescribed Oath; and to be as free as if they had Complied with the law in due time; which if they obtain, the right of Election will be little benefit to honest Men in our Country.

We Flatter ourselves that the assistance of Council can be had if appli^d for by our Friends in Assembly, to bring about a rehearing of

* See page 186.

our Contest, and if Possible to put a stop to such daring attempts against our Liberties.*

We beg leave to subscribe ourselves

your Excellencies

most Obedient,

Humble serv^{ts},

W^m SCOTT,

ROB^t STEVENSON.†

York, February 25th, 1779.

Directed.

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Pres^t in Council, Philadelphia.

STATEMENT OF JOHN MITCHELL, &c., 1779.

Philadelphia, February 26th, 1779.

His Excellency the President, and Executive Council of this State, having requested me to give them an account of what passed between Major General Arnold and me, respecting the waggons he sent to Egg-harbour in October last, and also what passed before, and at the time, I wrote General Arnold a state of this affair, dated the nineteenth instant. Agreeable to their request, I now send them the real state of that matter to the best of my recollection.

General Arnold having sent for me to Head quarters in this city, I waited on him in his chamber, when he informed me he sent for me to request I would give him a true state of the affair of the waggons, and what passed respecting the payment of the hire of them. I answered it was very disagreeable to me to have any thing further done by me in that affair, as it was before Congress, and the Executive Council of this State, that I wished to avoid being considered as engaged in either side, or interfering in the business, and that it was extremely disagreeable to have my name or any thing wrote by me in the publick paper, that I had given the Council a state of it, copy of which he was possessed of, and that I had also given a committee of Congress a full account of what I knew, that I would appear before any proper authority to give my testimony. The General replied that it was very hard to be refused a state of the facts, and urged me to give him a certificate of the affair, particularly what I knew respecting the payment of the wagon master. He shewed me a paper, which he said if I approved of, he requested I would sign. I read it, he asked me if I approved of it. I told him if I signed one, I would write it myself, that there was

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., pages 696-700.

† See Arch. Vol. VI. p. 775, & this Vol. p. 198 & 213.

some parts not in the words I would put them. He gave me the paper and requested as a Gentleman I would not refuse him what he desired. I told him I would take it home, and consider of it, and would let him know what I would do. On consideration of it, I was very anxious to avoid having any thing further to say on the subject, but on his further request, I wrote the facts as related in my letter of the nineteenth instant, since published in Mr Dunlap's paper, and sent it to the General, which is the same as my answer to Council of the nineteenth of January, except from the word, on Saturday, the thirtieth of January, &c.—which is what passed respecting the payment of Mr Jordan, the Waggon-master. General Arnold requested I would put it in the nature of a certificate, and returned the letter to me for that purpose, but I persisted in the mode I had before done it in, and returned the letter to him. I must acknowledge it was very disagreeable to me to write or have any thing published in my name, as I sincerely wish to avoid all public disputes, and am extremely sorry there ever was any cause for writing on so disagreeable a subject.

JOHN MITCHELL,

Dr Qr Mr Genl.*

Mr Mitchell not having given a compleat account of this business, in order to compleat it, I think it necessary to certify that on Friday, the instant, Mr Mitchell came to me, and after some little introduction mentioned that General Arnold had importuned him so much on the subject, that he had concluded to give him a certificate, and wished me to look at a paper in his hand. I for some time declined it, expressing my aversion to do any thing in it, but as President of the State. But at his importunity I at length was induced to read it, and found it to be a colourable, unfair state, very different in my Judgment, from what he had given the Council, some facts suppressed and others mistated, and I instantly declared it to be so, and that it was calculated to screen General Arnold. The style and manner in which it was drawn up, tho' it was in Mr Mitchell's hand writing, seemed to me different from Mr Mitchell's, and I expressed this opinion to the Council immediately, after which I mentioned the transaction, as I then suspected it to have been drawn by General Arnold, and that it was intended to surprize me into an approbation of it. Mr Mitchell admitted before the Council the above fact—but has omitted it in the state given.

Indorsed,

1779, rec^d February 27th from John Mitchell, Esquire, state of the case of the waggons, and the President's certificate.

* See page 218.

1778. Teams. Northampton.
 October 4, { gone to Egg } Peter Collier, W. Mr, 12 d°, d°.
 5, { harbour. } Abraham Worthering, 13 d°, d°.

 Extract from John Mitchell, D. Q. M. G., his book.
 T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

1778. Teams.
 October 10th, (gone to Egg harb^r) Patrick Matland, W. Mr., 10 d°, Bucks county.
 Extract from John Mitchell, D. Q. M. G., his book,
 T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

1778.
 November 9th. Col^l Eyres called to inform Coll. Mitchell that Adam Foulke has sold twenty barrels of the Oil. Mr. Foulke says he will take the rem'r at first cost, and advance £2000 down, and pay the remainder as he sells it.
 Extract from John Mitchell, D. Q. M. G., his book.
 T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

1778.
 November 30. Ord^d by the Gen^l, acco^{tt} of 10 waggons employ^d going to Egg harbour the 22nd to the 30th.
 Also any other accounts agst the Schooner at Egg harbour.
 Extract from John Mitchell, D. Q. M. G., his book,
 T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

SECRETARY MATLACK TO WM. SHIPPEN, 1779.

Sir,

The Council order me to request that you will procure and furnish them with the proceedings of Congress, *duly authenticated on the Councils representation to Congress of the conduct of Matthew Clarkson Aid du Camp to Gen^l Arnold with the yeas and nays on the question in his case.

I am &c.,
 T. M. sec'y.

Philad^a Feb^r 26, 1779.

Directed,

To hn^lble Wm. Shippen, Esq^r. Delegate of Pennsylvania in Congress.

* See page 204.

GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Head Quarters, Middlebrook, 27th feby, 1779.

Dear Sir,

It is very probable that necessity or choice may induce us to undertake some offensive operations against the Indians this summer, in case the situation of affairs on the sea-board admit of any thing of this kind. At all events it will be necessary to obtain such information of their country and the avenues leading into it, as may be advantageously applied under favourable circumstances.

I have been told by Charles Stuart Esq^r Commissary Gen^l of Issues, that the State of Pennsylvania is in possession of actual surveys of the waters of Susquehannah, and the distances of the different branches across to the Alleghany river. As a knowledge of these particulars may be of use, in giving preference to certain routes, or in forming a plan of operations, I shall therefore be obliged to you, for the papers alluded to, and as soon as your convenience will admit.

I need not mention to you the obtaining them in a manner the least liable to produce ideas of the purpose for which they are wanted.

I am, D Sir

your very hble serv^t

G^o WASHINGTON.

Directed,

Private

To His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philad^a. G^o Washington.

J. M. NESBITT TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philad^a, Feby 27th, 1779.

Sir,

When your letter for Mess^{rs} Morris, Nesbitt & Co, was handed me I was at Dinner or should have given it an Immediate answer or have waited on you to have known the Vessell alluded to for I really don't know any Vessell in which Mr. Morris & I am Concern'd now in port fit for the purpose you mention, point out the one meant & you shall have an Immediate answer in respect to Her, as far as I am Concern'd the public may be assured of my Consent either to

hire or sell to them any Vessel, I am Interested in on such terms as Indifferent persons shall Judge reasonable.*

I have the honour to be

Sir your most obed^t

& most hum Serv^t

J. M. NESBITT.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq^r.

GEN. SULLIVAN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Providence, Feb^r 27, 1779.

Sir,

I this day had the honor of your favor of the 21 ult^a. The papers alluded to as I know not where or to whom they might be forwarded, I ordered them to be taken Care of untill Claimed by some person who had a Right to them. I now put them into the hands of Col. Bowen Deputy Quarter M^r for this Department, who says he will forward them with this Letter to you as soon as possible.

I am Sir,

your most obed^t Serv^t

JNO. SULLIVAN.

Directed,

On publick Service.

To His Excellency Governor Read, Pennsylvania.

This Letter & the papers accompany-
ing to be forwarded by first express }
Jno. Sullivan, M. G. }

* See page 198.

SECY. MATLACK TO M. DU SIMITIERE, 1779.

Philadelphia, Feb^r 28, 1779.

Sir.

I beg the favour of you to translate into English the enclosed *petition and let me have it as early as can do it with convenience to yourself.

I am with great respect

Sir your very humble Servant

T. M.

M. Du Simitiere.

GEORGE ROSS TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Sir,

I just now received your polite favour, inclosing a Resolve of the Hon^{ble} the Supream Executive Council of this Commonwealth.

Their testimony of my conduct, as Judge of the Court of Admiralty, merits my sincerest thanks, and I assure you, gives me very sensible pleasure.

I verily believe, on the great scale, that the Politicks of the Hon^{ble} Council, yours & my own, are the same. And tho' there may be a difference of opinion about some articles in the Constitution, I have held myself bound by it, (more especially since a Publick Compact made) and the Laws that have been enacted under it; and shall still continue to do so untill a majority of the People (from whom only authority is derived,) shall think proper to alter the same. Holding myself always at Liberty to use proper methods for procuring such amendments, as in good conscience I shall conceive will procure & secure to the people more Liberty & Happiness.

With those sentiments I have hitherto served in Publick Office, and with such sentiments I have no objection to accept the Commission of Judge of the Admiralty. Trusting that the Hon^{ble} Assembly will make adequate & suitable provision for supporting the office with Dignity & Honor. You will oblige me by returning my thanks to his Excellency & Council.

I am Sir,

with much respect,

y^r very humble serv^t,

GEO. ROSS.†

1st March, 1779.

* No inclosure found with this.

† He was appointed, this day, Judge of the Admiralty of the State, under a late act of Assembly. See Col. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 718.

JOHN MITCHELL TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 1st March, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honor to address you again on a subject which has given me great pain and uneasiness of mind. I had flattered myself that my Letter to your Excellency of the twenty-sixth past, with the narrative inclosed for the Council,* would have been satisfactory, and have removed from the minds of your Excellency and the Council, those unfavourable Ideas which you had conceived against me, in the unfortunate, and to me, unhappy affair of the Waggons sent by General Arnold to Egg Harbour, but from the publication in Mr. Dunlap's paper of the 27th, I have the mortification to find I am still involved in that disagreeable affair, and have not been able to remove the opinion of the Council on my conduct; this I feel with redoubled force, as I have been, and am sincerely disposed to give every Satisfaction in my power.

It was truly my intention, however unfortunate in the mode of conveying it, to give your Excellency and the Council a clear and Just relation of the several facts relating to that affair. I have no design to palliate General Arnold's conduct in the Business, nor in any manner to conceal such facts as may give it a colouring one way or the other; but being sensible that I had in some measure erred in my own, it was hardly to be expected I should state it in a worse point of view than my conscience told me it deserved; if, on the other hand, I have appeared to endeavour at giving it a colouring which the Council think too favourable, I should hope for an indulgent allowance for a propensity, so natural to the human mind, whether this has been the case or not I must submit to their candor; and in order to remove every unfavourable Impression, as far as may be in my power, I will now give as full and candid a relation of the whole matter as I am able. Perhaps the whole appearing together may be more satisfactory than the detached pieces I have already given at different Times.

About the middle of October last, General Arnold sent for me. On my waiting on him, he informed me he wanted Ten or Twelve Waggons to go to Egg Harbour to bring some Goods which were in danger of falling into the Enemy's hands, and that he would pay the expence. I informed him I had none at that time could be spared from Publick Service, but when there was, I would send the Waggon Master to him. He asked me if there was not Waggons sent to Egg Harbour with Forage and Provisions, and if they could not bring back a load for him. I answered yes, there was several sent, but I believed they were now returning—that if I had occasion to send any more, with either provision or Forage, and there was no

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 706, 708, 700, and p. 160, 207, of this Vol.

publick stores to bring up, they might load for him, and it would save the publick half the expence, as he must pay the hire back. This he seemed pleased with, but not having occasion to send any of the articles above mentioned, the General sent to me several times to know if I could let him have the Waggon. My answer was, he shou'd have the first could be spared without Injury to the public service. On the 22d of October, Jesse Jordan, a Waggon Master from Chester County, came to Town with Twelve Teams, a memorandum of which was put in the Memorandum Book. A considerable quantity of Stores being forwarded to North River, and some Continental Teams coming in, which were not expected, and the General being desirous to have the Waggon sent to save the property at Egg Harbour from falling into the hands of the Enemy, I desired Mr. Jordan to go to General Arnold, who wanted him to go to Egg Harbour, and that he wou'd pay him and give him his directions. Mr. Jordan accordingly went from me, and, I believe, called on the General; from that time I heard nothing further on the subject till Mr. Jordan had returned, and I think gone home, when I asked one of the Clerks if he heard whether Jordan was paid by General Arnold. I think he said he did not know. I afterwards saw the General, who told me the Waggon Master had not called on him for his pay, and desired, when I saw him, I would let him know or words to that purpose. I desired my Clerks to be careful that Mr. Jordan's hire was not paid in my office, and to pay no pay rolls without my approbation. From this time, about the beginning of November, I heard nothing respecting the matter that I can recollect, till the Secretary of the Executive Council wrote me for what Information I could give them respecting the Waggon sent by General Arnold to Egg Harbour, to which request I gave the following answer, dated the 19th January.

Philadelphia, 19th January, 1779.

Sir,

I, this day, received an order, signed by the Secretary of the Honorable Council of this State, requesting I would give them information respecting a Brigade of Waggon, under the conduct of Jesse Jordan, Waggon Master from Chester County; the Council having been informed that I sent them to Egg Harbour to convey private property to this City. I shall at all times be ready to give your Excellency and the Hon'ble Council every information you think necessary for the good of the Publick, or this State in particular, which relates to my office or the business of the Department, as I have no desire to conceal any part of my conduct as a publick officer, having conducted the business under my direction, with Integrity and Justice to the publick. The following are the State o-

the facts required, viz : In the Month of October last, at the time the Enemy had landed some Troops at Egg Harbour, General Arnold desired I would furnish him with a Brigade of Teams, which he wanted to send to the Jerseys, and that he would pay the hire of them, they being wanted to remove property which was in eminent danger of falling into the Enemy's hands. I informed him he shou'd have the Waggon Master of the first Brigade, which cou'd be spared from Publick Service, sent to him, when he would give him such orders as he pleased. Accordingly, about the 22d of October, Mr. Jordan w^{as} sent to the General to receive his directions, having at that time sent forward a large supply for the army, &c^a. When Jordan returned, he was desired to make out his account to General Arnold to be paid. I do not know where the Loading was stored, nor whose property it was, further than what is before mentioned—a greater number of Continental Teams coming in than I expected, enabled me to comply with General Arnold's request without any inconvenience to the Service. If there is any thing further in which I can satisfy your Excellency and the Council, I will wait on you at any time with pleasure.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

J. M.

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

Which, I afterwards learned, they sent a copy of to General Arnold. His Excellency the President & Council requested General Green to direct that Mr. Jordan, a Waggon Master in his service, might be sent for, on which I sent two Expresses to enquire if he was in the Quarter Master's Department, and if so, to send him up to wait on the President and Council ; but they returned with information that he was not in the Service ; this I informed his Excellency of, who, if I can recollect, and to the best of my memory and recollection, said the Council had laid the matter before Congress, and therefore it was not necessary to send again for him. I offered to send any orders of his by Express or otherwise, as he thought proper. The next I heard of this affair, was on the 30th January, when Mr. Jordan came to Town and called at my office. I told him to go to General Arnold for his pay, that I had nothing to do with it, and ask'd him why he did not call for it long before that time. He answered he had been sick, and could not come to Town, and I think, said he was sick when he came from Egg Harbour. I told him he must wait on the President and Council before he left Town—that they had sent for him—and it was necessary he should call on them. I also asked him if he had made any complaints to Col. Boyd, and for what reason he did make such complaints. He said

he had made none, nor had he seen Col. Boyd since his return from Egg Harbour, but he believed some of the Waggoners had made some complaint, which he had never seen; on this he went from me, as I believe, to General Arnold, and returned with a Note from him to me as follows, viz: "The Waggoners were sent to me the 22d, and discharged the 29th, and were employed Eight days each, is 96 days a . ." "N. B. If Colonel Mitchell will make out the account I will pay it, as the Waggoners were not sent in on purpose for me. I think it will be right to pay only for the time they were employed." Signed, B. ARNOLD.

Saturday.

To which I answered Immediately.

Sir,

Mr. Jordan is entitled to pay from the day he left home, and as he was not employ'd in Publick Service, but sent to you on his arrival, it is but just he should be paid by the Person who employed him; but if you order I should pay any part of the time due him for hire of his Teams, I will obey your order.

I have the honor to be,
with respect sir,
your most obed^t hu^r serv^t,

J. MITCHELL.

January 30th, 1779.

To the Hon'ble Major General Arnold.

This answer was sent directly to the General, whether Mr. Jordan went to him then or not I do not recollect, but on producing his pay roll I found he had charged as if he received forage, which surprized me much, not having been informed or knew he had drawn any Forage for more than one day, on which I sent to the Forage Master to know the truth of it, who returned me an account that he had drawn Forage. I then desired he would make out his pay roll as if he had not Forage, and to pay the amount of the Forage to Owen Biddle, Esqr., Agent for the C. G. of Forage. Mr. Jordan had made an account out for two days more than he was entitled to. I told him of it and the mode established for payment of Teams, and that it was agreeable to the Waggon Law and the opinion of the late Waggon Master General, James Young, Esqr. He seemed not contented with this deduction of two days at first, but on my assuring him it was the usual and customary time, and offering to show him several

pay rolls settled agreeable to the Law, and what I then said, and that I insisted on the matter being settled before he left Town, as I wished to be clear of any further Trouble with it, and desiring him not to neglect to call on the President of this State, and informing him where he lived. He asked for paper, pen & Ink, and liberty to make out his pay roll in the office, all which were granted him; he seemed to me perfectly satisfied, contented, and in good humour. I assisted him in bringing out the amount, and I believe the Clerk cast it up for him. He left me in this disposition, and went to General Arnold to receive his money, but soon returned and said the General was out. I told him to call on him again, and let me know if he refused to pay him; from that time I never saw Mr. Jordan but once, at some distance. General Arnold called on me on the Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday following—I cannot recollect which—and asked me if I knew any thing of Mr. Jordan, that he wanted to pay him, that he was going out of Town, that he would leave the money with Major Clarkson, and requested I would send Mr. Jordan to him to receive his money, but if he would not come, beg'd I would send for Major Clarkson, who would bring the money.

I have omitted to mention in the proper place that, on Mr. Jordan's return, he was told to call on General Arnold for his pay, in answer to which, he said he would not stay at that time to make out his pay roll, but would return and get his pay, or words to that purpose. On looking at a Memorandum Book in the office, kept to assist my memory and my Clerks only, I saw the words, "gone to Egg Harbour by order of General Arnold;" opposite to the word Jesse Jordan, W. M., 12 Teams, Chester County as here put down. I told the Clerk General Arnold did not give me orders to send him, and therefore it should be sent to Egg Harbour by direction of General Arnold, which he immediately altered, and on observing on the other side, 80th, Jesse Jordan returned from Egg Harbour, I told the Clerk, as I did not think I had any concern with the Waggon after they had been sent to General Arnold, that those words were unnecessary, and desired he would strike it out, which he did immediately; this happened the week after Jordan was at my office last.

On General Arnold's return, he sent to let me know he wanted a Certificate of what passed respecting the Waggon and the payment. As I wished to avoid any further concern in this matter, I did not go to wait on him till he sent several times; when I waited on him he was in his Chamber. He told me what he sent for me, was to give him a Certificate of what I knew respecting the Waggon he sent to Egg Harbour, and what I knew respecting his desire to pay them, as the Council had charged him with refusing to pay them. I answered I was very desirous to have no further concern in the affair, that I had informed the President and Council what I knew of it; a Copy of which I believed he had, and that I had also given a Committee of Congress what Information I could, that I would freely go before any authority that had a right to enquire into it,

and give my Testimony, but I could not give any Certificate or have my name in the publick papers, which might subject me to disagreeable answers, as the papers were full of invective and abuse on many respectable Characters. He said it was very cruel and hard to be refused a true state of the matter, and showed me a paper he had wrote—I believe read it; I also read it, when he asked me if it was the true state of the matter. I answered it might be near it, but if I signed any I would write it myself, that the words were not Expressed as I would do, if I gave any; but still requested he would not insist on it, and wished he would excuse me; and also said I would relate the matter if he would not publish it; but his answer was that would not do, as he wanted the facts to publish. I endeavoured to excuse myself, but he earnestly requested, as a gentleman, I would give him a state of the matter, and requested I would take the paper home, and send him a Certificate. I told him I would consider of it and let him know. On full consideration I was still desirous of avoiding any thing that was to be published with my name; but on his sending to me several times for a Certificate, I wrote one, which, on consulting with a friend whose opinion I esteemed—he thought it an improper one—on which I was determined to give a Copy of my letter to His Excellency; of the 19th January, which is before recited, but from the words on Saturday, the 30th January, as recited in the former part of this narrative, was added as what passed respecting the payment; this I sent to the General, who returned it the next morning, desiring I would send him a Certificate. I told the Gentleman who brought it I could give no other than that. He said he believed it would not do. I answered I could do no more; afterwards the paper he gave me was sent for (as I kept no Copy, do not recollect the Contents), which I returned. The General afterwards called on me and requested I would give him a Certificate. I assured him I could give no other, and wished he would excuse me; he seemed displeased at my answer, and said another Gentleman's influence (naming him) was greater than his. I assured him I was not influenced by any one, and only wanted to avoid any publication, but that he might have the Letter I wrote him. He took it and left me, as I thought, displeased, and thus this matter ended, having had no conversation with the General on the subject since.

On the 18th February I received a letter from Colonel Pettitt, A. Q. M. G'l, inclosing a Letter from the Secretary of Council, desiring a Certificate of the entry of the Waggon sent to Egg Harbour, of the Ferries they crossed & of their return, to which I gave the following answer.

Philadelphia, 18th February, 1779.

Dear Sir,

In answer to yours of this morning, I have to inform you that I have no other Entry of Jesse Jordan, W. M., than a Memorandum of his coming to my office on the 22d October last, when he was desired to call on General Arnold, who wanted him to go to Egg Harbour, that he would pay him and give him directions. From that time I conceived Mr. Jordan's Waggon to be totally discharged from being under my directions; I therefore neither gave him orders to go to any Ferry or any kind of Instructions, but what is mentioned above. I do not know at what Ferry he passed either going or returning. I shall at all times most cheerfully give the President and Council every Information and satisfaction on this or any other Transaction in my department, which they may require; all that I know of the matter I have communicated to them.

I am with sincere esteem,

Dear Sir,

yours, &c.,

J. M.

To Colonel Charles Pettitt, A. Q. M. G'l.

On the 20th February, Colonel Pettitt called on me for a Certificate of the entry, as it was esteemed by the Council to be one. I gave him one Immediately; on the 22d I received another Letter from Colonel Pettitt, requesting I would give a Certificate of an entry of discharge of the Waggon, or that there was none; to this I gave the following answer, viz:

Dear Sir,

I received your note of this morning—am sorry to find the Honourable President and Council should think any information was withheld from them by me or any Gentleman in the Department. I am conscious I have never refused or delayed giving them any information that was required. My letter to you of the 18th was as full, and conveyed every intelligence I could give you; there is no entry of discharge, or of Mr. Jordan's Teams, or any other entry whatever, save the one I gave you the 20th Instant, which was fully contained in mine of the 18th—the reason was there fully explained.

I am, Dear Sir,

yours, &c.,

J. M.

To Colonel Charles Pettitt, A. Q. M. G'l.

On the 23d Instant Colonel Pettitt called on me to ask me for the Memorandum Book to show to the Council. I told him he should have any Book I had with pleasure. From this time till the 25th, when I was directed to appear before Council by their order of the 24th, as they intended to proceed against me, agreeable to the Resolve of Congress, dated the 9th February, 1777. I waited on his Excellency as soon as he was ready to see me, and gave them every Information in my power, and I believe as far as my recollection carries me, nearly agreeable to what is herein contained.

This affair has given me infinite pain; whatever errors or inadvertencies I may have committed, I can truly and solemnly say were not intentionally wrong, and I hope your Excellency and the Council will consider it in this point of view, and favor me so far as to excuse those erroneous parts of my conduct in this affair, and be so indulgent as to prevent any publication respecting me, as it may do me the greatest & most important Injury. I flatter myself you will grant me this proof of your tenderness & Indulgence. I have and will freely do every thing in my power to give you satisfaction.

I have the honor to be,

with great respect,

your Excellency's most

obed^t hum^e serv^t,

JOHN MITCHELL,

D. Q. M. G'l.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

CHRISTIAN WIRTZ T. M. LANC'R, TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Lancaster, March 1st, 1779.

Sir,

Being appointed Town Major of this Borough by the Hon'ble Council of this State, I think myself in duty bound to relate the Circumstances in some degree attending the Guards, Stores &c., of this place—On the Invasion of the Enemy into this State the greater part of the Stores were removed from Philadelphia here in Consequence of which Store Houses were Built for s^t purpose, since the Enemy's Evacuation from the City, the Stores have been removed back and but a very trifling Quantity remaining here although requiring the same number of guards as if they were entirely filled. My reason for taking your attention to this, is That I have the greatest Difficulty in acquiring the guards necessary for the posts in

this Garrison from Col. Galbraith, Lieu^t of the County, who Informs me that he has so many Draughts in the different parts of this County as Guards to Continental Stores and magazines that he is often at a loss to compleat the Quota for this Post, whereas if they were Collected and depossited here, the Storehousses and magazines would be large enough to hold 'em and the same Guard that do duty here now would be a sufficient number to secure the whole. This would save a vast expence and Trouble. I have stated the Case to the Board of War and am in hopes they will take into Consideration.

I am

your most Obedient
and very humble Serv^t

CHRISTIAN WIRTZ.

Town Major, of Lancaster.

Indorsed,

Rec'd 11 March, & ord^d to be communicated to the Board of War.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, March 2, 1779.

The Board of War having represented, that Application has been made to the board for Arrearages of Clothing due to two Regiments for the Year 1777, and that other Regiments in the Service have similar demands, which ought to be adjusted and paid with all the Dispatch compatible with the Prevention of Frauds to the United States:

Resolved,

That a proper Person be forthwith appointed and commissioned, to settle and pay all Accounts of Arrearages of Cloathing due to the Troops of these States for the Year 1777:

That this Commissioner be authorised to call on the Cloathier-General and his Deputies, for immediate and exact Returns of all Cloathing by them issued for the Year 1777, shewing at what Times, to whom, and for whose Use, the same was issued; which Returns the Cloathier-General and his Deputies are directed to make accordingly. The Cloathiers in the several States are also desired to make

to the said Commissioner similar Returns of all the Cloathing by them issued for that Year, on Account of the United States; and the Governments of the States respectively are requested to give the Orders and Assistance necessary for this End. And all Officers of the Army who have received Cloathing for the Troops, either of any Continental or State Cloathier, or by Purchase or Impressment, are directed to render to the commissioner aforesaid a Return of the same, and account with him for their due Application :

That the Commander in Chief, and Officers commanding at any separate Posts, do forthwith cause the Captains and Officers commanding Companies in the Troops under their immediate Command to make out the Accounts of their respective Companies, specifying the Names of the Claimants still in the Service, where they are, what they have received, and what is still due ; these points, in Cases of Doubt, to be ascertained by a particular Enquiry of the Officers, non-commissioned Officers and Privates of each Company. The Accounts, thus formed and ascertained, shall be delivered to the Regimental Pay-Masters, who shall draw them into a general One, and settle the same with the Commissioner aforesaid ; and the Commissioner shall certify the Sums due on such Accounts, and to whom ; whereupon Warrants shall be issued for Payment, in like Manner as for the monthly Pay of the Troops :

That the said Regimental Pay-Masters pay the Arrearages aforesaid to the non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers themselves, or their Representatives, to whom they are due ; and account with the Commissioner aforesaid for the Monies they received for that Use, producing the Receipts of the non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers, or their Representatives, as Vouchers. And if, upon such Accounting, there shall appear to be Monies in any Pay-Master's Hands, received for non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers who afterwards died or deserted, the said Commissioner shall certify the same to the Pay-Master General, or his Deputy at the Post where the Regiment of such Pay-master is stationed, to whom he shall pay over all such Monies remaining in his Hands :

That all non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers, entitled to the Continental Bounty of Cloathing, who served in the Year 1777, but are not now in the Service, and their Representatives in case of Death, shall also receive the Arrearages due for such Cloathing ; provided they produce or transmit to the commissioner aforesaid Accounts thereof, properly authenticated by the Certificates of the Officers under whom they immediately served, or other sufficient Evidence. And the said Commissioners, being satisfied therewith, shall certify the Sums due on those Accounts ; whereupon Warrants shall issue as aforesaid for Payment.

That as in the Course of this Enquiry it may appear that the Cloathing issued to divers non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers for the Year 1777 exceeds the Bounty allowed by Congress, the Regimental Pay-Masters shall enter the Names of such in two sepa-

rate Rolls, for the Inspection of the Commissioner aforesaid, who shall transmit one of them to the Pay-Master General, or his Deputy at the Post where the Regiments may happen to be, and the other to the commanding Officers of the Regiments to which such non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers belong, who shall thereupon be put under Stoppages, by Order of such Commanding Officers, to the Amount of the Surpluses of the allowed Bounty; for which the Regimental Pay-Masters shall account with the Pay-Master General, or his Deputy aforesaid, upon every Application for the Regiment's monthly Pay.

That the said Commissioner be permitted to employ one or more Clerk or Clerks, to assist him in executing the Commission aforesaid, as the Business shall require.

That the said Commissioner be allowed, while in actual Service, the same Pay and Subsistence as an Auditor in the Army; and that he be appointed by and accountable to the Board of War, and continue in Office so long only as they shall think proper; and that his Clerk, if the Board of War shall deem it to be necessary he should be allowed one, have the same Pay and Subsistence as is granted to a Clerk of an Auditor of Accounts in the Army.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.*

SEC. T. MATLACK TO MAJ. GEN. ARNOLD, 1779.

Philadelphia, March 4, 1779.

Sir,

In the publication ordered by the Council, Mr. Templeton, of New York is named as a person to whom Miss Levy† was to apply by your direction. I give you this notice, to afford you an opportunity of showing any reasons you may be possessed of why his name ought to be concealed, conceiving it possible that you may have such reasons.

I am Sir,
your very humble servant

T. M. Sec.

Directed,

To Major Gen^l Arnold.

* From a handbill.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 676.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 5th March, 1779.

Sir,

Inclosed in a Letter of the 4th Inst, from the Hon'ble George Bryan Esqr, Vice President of the Executive Council of this State, I received Six Bonds taken on the issuing of Six Commissions for private Ships of War.*

He informs me that "there were several applications for like Commissions then made, & if I should think proper to put a further number in their Hands they should be accounted for."

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed Six Blank Commissions for private Ships of War, and a like number of Bonds & Instructions.

I have the Honor to be
With great Respect
Your Excellency's
Most Obedt Servant
JOHN JAY, President.

Directed,

To His Excellency President Reed.

MAJOR GEN. ARNOLD TO SEC'Y MATLACK, 1779.

Head Quarters, Philada., 5th March, 1779.

Sir.

My Request to Miss Levy to apply to Mr. Templeton was for Purposes of Importance to the United States, I therefore, for his sake, wish his name may not be mentioned publicly, as it will doubtless operate to his prejudice and personal safety in New York.

If Council think proper to publish the Circumstance of Miss Levy's being directed to call on a Gentleman in New York, at my Request, I hope they will do me the Justice to observe it was on Business of a public nature, and designed to promote the Interest of the United States.

I am, Sir, your
hble Servant,
B. ARNOLD.

Directed,

Mr. Timothy Matlack, Secretary to the Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

(Received March 5, 1779.

T. M., Sec'y.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 714.

COUNCIL TO THOMAS MCKEAN, 1779.

In Council,
Philadelphia, 5th March, 1779.

Sir,

Inclosed I transmit to you a Letter lately written by Samuel R. Fisher, of this City, to his Brother Jabez Mand Fisher, now or lately a Trader under the protection of the King of Great Britain, in the City of New York. The inimical principles of the author are sufficiently discovered throughout, but there are some informations conveyed in it that appear to this board to call for legal reprehension & punishment. With y^e design of taking your sense of the guilt of Mr. Fisher, it is put into your hands, with this farther remark only, that Gen. Maxwell has sent it, as an intercepted Letter,* found on a person going into New York.

I am, Sir,

your very

obed. Serv^t

G. B., V. Presid^t.

Directed,

To the Hon. Thos. McKean, Esq.

V. P. GEORGE BRYAN TO GEN. WASHINGTON, 1779.

Philadelphia, 5th March, 1779.

Sir,

It may not be amiss to acquaint y^r Excellency that Council have declined recommending persons desirous of passing into the Enemies Lines from this State, & have referred back to Congress a business wherein they found others in public stations interfering without any reprehension from that honourable Body, altho' the irregularity has been laid before them several months since.

At the same time, this board ever watchful of the public safety & happiness, think it behooves them to communicate to you, their suspicions, that Mr. Paul Zanzinger of the Burrough of Lancaster, in this State, merchant, who is lately gone hence for Camp, has a design of getting liberty to pass into New York. For this purpose He will probably set forth his desire to visit his father-in-law the Rev^d Mr. Thomas Barton, now in that City. When you know the

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 729

Character & Conduct of this Divine, Your Excellency will judge better of such a request. Mr. Barton has long been a missionary, stationed at Lancaster, by the Society in England for propagating the Gospel. It is believed, that he has been very instrumental in poisoning the minds of his parishioners, who are generally of very disaffected principles, as to the present contest with Great Britain. His late conduct in refusing to give the common proofs of allegiance to this State, & abjure the King of Great Britain, & in taking the benefit of the indulgence of our Legislature, which allowed him to sell his lands, & retire as he said to Europe, but above all his acceptance of a chaplaincy in a British Regiment at New York, (as is credibly reported here) & thus actively joining the Enemy, confirm the worst Ideas that have been entertained of this Gentleman. I would suggest that Mr. Zanzinger is a Trader, who has never manifested much attention to the present contest, & very likely to be drawn by interested views to a mart where European merchandizes are sold at prices inviting to men who seek profit merely.

Mr. Z., is probably accompanied by a son of Mr. B^a, a young gentleman, lately returned from England, where he has been weaned of all fond attachment to that corrupted Country, & brought to see the happiness & independence of North America in their proper light & connection. Young Mr. Barton is a much clearer character with us, than his Brother-in-law, & as such I venture to mention him, & I am,

May it please y^r Ex^r

y^r most obed^t and

very hum. Serv^t,

G. B., V. P.*

Directed,

To His Excellency General Washington, at Camp.

JOHN BROWN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Pittsfield, 7th March, 1779.

Sir,

Inclosed I send you a Copy of an impeachment ag^t Gen^l Arnold, who found Means in a very extraordinary manner, and by the help of some extraordinary minds, to evade a trial. I wish I could say that Congress had been less concerned in this Matter; perhaps at this Day they may be of my opinion, altho' they, contrary and in direct violations of the Laws Military, and antecedently by them established

* See answer, March 10, p. 236.

for the Regulation of the Army, gave Gen^l Arnold a Sham trial in Congress without giving me the least Notice. But as I have stated this matter anew to Congress, shall give your hon^r no further claim than to suggest that the last Charge in the impeachment can now be fully supported, which, tho' trifling connected with Gen^l Arnold's Character, yet might affect that of a better man. The other Charges might be chiefly supported, tho' the Evidence is now much dissipated.

I take the Liberty to use this Freedom on the presumption of a probability of these charges having been suppressed in your state; Gen^l Arnold, I am told, was in high Repute at that time in y^e Middle and Southern States.

I am, Sir,

most Respectfully,

your hon^r most Obedient

humble Servt.

JN^o BROWN.

N. B. Since the writing this Letter, have been hon^d with a Letter from the hon^{le} T. Matlack, Esq., with pamphlets and Charges ag^t G. Arnold, inclosed, for which I take this opportunity to return that Gentleman my most hearty and sincere thanks. Can assure your hon^r that I am extremely happy to hear that so great a Villian is at last detected, or the old proverb verely'd, "give a Thief length of Rope and he will hang himself." Shall accept it as a peculiar fav^r that the hon^{le} M^r Matlack transmit me the Remainder of the trial and issue of the Impeachments exhibited by the hon^{ble} Council. Expect to be in Philadelphia soon, at which time shall do myself the hon^r of making some acquaintance with your hon^r, particularly on the subject of Gen^l Arnold, of which your Sec^y has been pleased to fav^r me with a Copy.

Am, &c.,

B.

Hon^{le} Joseph Reed, Esq.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, March 8, 1779.

Sir,

Since we last had the Honour of speaking with your Excellency on the Subject of the Sounding the Delaware, we have conversed with General Du Portail and Col. La Radiere on the Matter. This we did with as much Delicacy as possible to the keeping the Soundings secret. The result was, that General Du Portail will not make a Plan

unless he has himself made the Survey & Soundings of the River. He says that it is impossible to do the Business properly, unless the Persons directing it are well acquainted as well with the Depths as the general Views of the Engineer who is to plan the Fortifications. That he can complete the Business in a few Days, whereas Persons not acquainted with Engineering will take up several Weeks to make what will be but an imperfect Report of the Situation of the River. He must have four Persons (Engineers) to assist; but none are to be acquainted with the Depths except himself & Col. La Radiere, who will be in a Boat, & the others on the shores of the River with Instruments to take the exact Bearing & situation of the Boat at the End of every Time agreed on, as they will all have Watches or Time Pieces sett exactly alike. On the whole, he thinks it a very scientific Operation, and is satisfied that it will be best & most secretly done by himself than in any other Way. He is anxious to proceed to Camp, first having fulfilled General Washington's orders as to making a Plan of the River. We have thought it best to state what he says to your Excellency, that if you had not substantial objections you may be pleased to expedite the proper orders for the Business going on, as it only now waits for yours and the Council's Consent & Assistance.

We have the Honour to be,
with the greatest Respect,
your very obed. Servants,
RICHARD PETERS.
By order of y^e Board.

Directed.—On public Service.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President &c., State of Pennsylvania.
(War Office.)

PRES. REED TO J. M. NESBITT &c., 1779.

Sir,

Our Anxiety to comply with the Wishes of the Trading Interests to do something for their Protection, induce us to remind you that it is now a week since we requested to know whether Capt. Conyng-ham's Vessel could be had for the above purpose. We have mentioned her to the House of Assembly as one we have in View, & therefore should be glad to be able to satisfy them whether she is attainable & on what Terms.

I am, Sir,
Your Obed. Hble. Serv.
J. R. Pr.

Directed,

To M^r John Maxwell Nesbitt, & others, merchants.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a, March 8, 1779.

Gentlemen,

I received your Favour of this Day respecting the sounding the River, and have laid it before the Council. We are sensible of the Delicacy of the Business, & if there was nothing but Punctilio should easily sacrifice it to the apparent advantage of Gen. D'Portail's Advice & Assistance. Had he communicated the Principles upon which he began & proceeded, very probably no Difficulties would have occurred. We would be far from assuming upon this or any other occasion more than was justly our due, but we think, intrusted as we are, that no Fortifications should be erected or the Depths of our River sounded & known but by our direction or at least with our Knowledge. Gen. Washington, During his Stay in Town, never mentioned any thing upon the subject, & Gen. Portail has evidently pass'd us by, even seeming to dislike our making any Inquiries for ourselves, & tho' not refusing yet omitting to give us his Company on the occasion. Our Apprehensions may perhaps be unnecessary, but we assure you they did not rise with ourselves, but out of Doors many respectable Citizens having testified their dislike of opening the most important Secrets of our Defence to Persons who have no natural Interest in, or attachment to the Country. We cannot help also recollecting that a Map, made by the Direction & at the Expense of the State & very complete in its Kind, having been lent to your Board on a former Occasion, cannot now be found, & we have some reason to fear it has been sent abroad. As Maj^r D'Portail has made a Map of the Country on both sides adjacent to the River, we doubt not you will from that direct the one mislaid to be replaced for our particular use.

We are very sensible of the Danger of losing Gen. D'Portail's Assistance, as we well know the Tenderness of these Gentlemen, & will therefore consider farther should any Expedient occur we will readily adopt it; but Gen. D'Portail or any other must make his Views more known to us in future, if he expects our Permission much more our Assistance in matters of this nature within the State.

I am Gent.,

Your most obd. hum. Ser.,

JOS. REED, Pres^t.*Directed,*

To Honorable Board of War, Present.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, March 8th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Col. Smith, a Member of our Board, having returned to this City thro' the Town of Lebanon, informs us that 160 Militia, exclusive of officers, are now doing Duty at that place & Lancaster, to the very great Inconvenience & Prejudice of the Country, from the loss of their Labour & Absence from their Farms. We conceive it perfectly unnecessary for the following Reasons:

1. That you have a Regt of Horse stationed at Lancaster, not doing any Military duty whatever.

2. There is no Necessity or Propriety in keeping ammunition at Lebanon as Lancaster has more suitable Buildings, & Lebanon is so exposed that should a stroke be made on the Frontiers that place would be a Frontier in a very short Time. It would be best to remove the whole of these Stores, over which a Guard is necessary, to Lancaster, where your own troops would have very easy Duty in keeping up the whole Guard.

3. The Militia are consuming the Provisions which will be indispensably necessary for the Troops if any Expedition is to be carried on agt the Indians, & indeed are now much wanted.

4. There is a Resolve of this Board agt calling out any Militia while Gen. Arnold continues in Command in this State, upon which we are determined to act, & shall therefore decline calling out any Relief of the present Guard; but shall forbear any proceedings at this Time, that you may have Opp^y to give your own Orders.

Col. Smith has also represented in very strong Terms the Abuse & Distress of the Subjects of this State by Gen. Pulaaki's Corps. Is Pennsylvania to be forever scourged by that undisciplined & irregular Corps without Redress? or must we be drove to actual Violence & resistance. They forage indiscriminately & take whatever they want from the poor terrified Inhabitants, many of whom strongly impressed by the Terrors of military Violence in Europe, submit to the spoiling of their goods & Insult to their Person without complaining, while others resent it in open Clamour & Complaint, & will soon probably redress themselves.

We had some Complaints some Time ago agt this Corps which we suppressed upon assurance from Gen. Green that they should be removed from this State, & they were actually on their Way, when General Palaski countermanded them. We do not know the Reasons nor are they material, but we are resolved to submit no longer to such insupportable grievances.

We expect your Board will take effectual Measures for our Relief & which we do not apprehend can be done but by removing them out of the State, as Gen. Green promised.

I am, Gent.,

Yours, &c.

Letters are carried down to your own Offices upon this subject which we understand correspond with the above Relation.

PRES. REED TO PRES. OF COUNCIL OF MASS., 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a, March 8th, 1779.

Sir,

Your favour of the 14th January, would not have remained so long unanswered, but that I expected to have been able to make one more satisfactory & agreeable. In our proclamation for laying the Embargo, we followed the Resolve of Congress, which only made an Exception in favour of Flour going to the supply of the Fleets or Armies of France. A partial Relaxation of it by our own authority might therefore give Umbrage to the neighbouring States who would suppose we were pursuing a gainful Traffic while their Trade was in this Article restrained. We therefore waited some Time, expecting some Proceedings in Congress, as it was intimated that your Delegates had some Advice upon the Subject. We have heard nothing from them as yet. However, that nothing might remain unessayed by us towards a Compliance with the Request of your Hon. Board we transmitted your letter to the Hon. House of Assembly of this State, in whose hands the Constitution has lodged the Power of laying or removing Embargoes during their session. And as we would on all occasions wish to demonstrate our very sincere Regard & Affection for the State of Massachusetts Bay we shall most cheerfully concur on our part & carry into Execution any Measure framed to promote its Comfort & Happiness.

I am with due Regard,

Hon^{bl} Sir, Your Most obed

& very Hu^{ble} Serv.

Directed,

To the Hon^{ble} Jeremiah Powell, Esqr., Presd^t of the Council of Massachusetts Bay.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES'T REED, 1779.

War Office, March 9th, 1779.

Sir,

The board have been honoured with your letter of yesterday, and in answer to that part relative to the Militia & the Stores at Lebanon we beg leave to inform you, That the board desirous of placing those stores in a situation more secure, to ease the militia, as much as possible, from the burthen of military service, and save expense to the States, long since ordered enquiry to be made of the practicability of removing them to Lancaster. But at that time the quantity was so great as to render their removal exceedingly difficult and expensive. Besides the magazine at Lancaster was not sufficient for their reception, and another building suitable for them was occupied by the Clothier general, since then the supplies have been drawn from thence rather than from other magazines, with a view to render their removal more easy, and on the 26th ulto, the board directed Col. Flower to prepare them for removal as soon as the roads would admit, having Lancaster in view as the place of deposit, orders for their actual removal will be given accordingly. Until then we request the guard of militia may be continued.

Enquiry will be made immediately of the condition of the light dragoons at Lancaster; and if they are adequate to the duties of the post, the militia may soon be relieved. But we are apprehensive of some difficulty on this head. The board were not inattentive to the public interest in this regard, having long ago endeavoured to get the duty of guards at Lancaster performed by the horse. But Lieut Col. White who then commanded them, gave such reasons against the measure as induced the suspension of orders for that purpose. Perhaps most of the objections are by this time removed.

Of that part of your Excellency's letter relative to General Pulaski's corps, a copy has been taken & inclosed to him this day in a letter from the board on the subject, a copy whereof we have the honour to send you herewith.—The Count some time since received orders to march to South Carolina, in consequence of which he has collected his corps at York Town from whence he will in a few days proceed on that route. The board have an equal abhorrence with your Excellency & the hon^{ble} Council of the abuse of military power complained of as exercised by that corps, and will on all occasions, to the utmost of their power, discourage and prevent such irregular & oppressive practices.

Your Excellency's other letter* respecting the sounding the river has also been rec^d.—You and the hon^{ble} Council will permit us to express our regret at the intervention of any obstacles in the execution of a business so highly interesting to the United States in general,

* See page 229.

and to this State in particular. But you say you will consider farther—we impatiently wait the result of your deliberations, as Gen. du Portail will soon return to camp.

As to the map lent to this board, we perfectly remember its being soon returned to us by Col. Laumoy, the engineer who used it, as not answering (or but in a small degree) the purpose for which it was borrowed; and we are also well satisfied from our recollection, that it was sent back to the Council, or their secretary. Nevertheless, we shall very readily communicate to your honourable board General du Portail's map as soon as we are furnished with it, as we will with every other matter in our power which we think will be useful to the State, or which you may request.

We have the honour

to be, with great respect

your Excellency's

most obed. Servants,

By order of the board,

TIM. PICKERING.

Indorsed,

From Colonel Timothy Pickering by order of the Board of War with a copy of a letter to Gen. Pulaski.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

War Office.

BOARD OF WAR TO BRIG. GEN. COUNT PULASKI, 1779.

War Office, March 9, 1779.

Sir,

We have the honour to inclose you a copy of our letter, & an extract of another, relative to the conduct of your corps in your absence. We hoped that all such grounds of complaint, had long since ceased. But as those mentioned correspond with former reports we cannot avoid giving some credit to them. The complaints are of such a nature as to demand a strict enquiry, at the same time they should lead you and your officers to maintain a stricter discipline in the Corps. This the peace & quiet of the Citizens of these States as well as the honour of the Corps indispensibly demand. You will suffer us Sir, to suggest the necessity of European officers divesting themselves of European Ideas, while they serve in America. The Inhabitants of these States are unused to the severe exertions of

Military power, they expect protection, and not violence and oppression from troops raised and supported at their own expense. It must give you pain, as it does us, to find the Legion followed with the execrations of the People among whom they have been stationed.

We are sensible that some irregularities happen among all troops, but no charges are so pointed as those against the Legion, from whence we cannot but conclude their conduct to be more reprehensible. We regret Sir, that there should be occasion of mentioning matters that must unavoidably give you uneasiness, but the duty we owe the People, and the respect we bear to you, Oblige us to do it.

We do not mean however to delay the Legion on these accounts, Its services are wanted at the Southward, whither we desire it may be marched with all possible dispatch. But we wish past complaints may engage the Corps to more cautious and regular behaviour in future, this we conceive necessary if the Legion would recover & preserve its honour, or even wish to remain in existence.

We have the honor

to be very respectfully

your most Obedt Servants,

By order of the Board,

TIM. PICKERING.

(Copy).

Directed,

Brig. Gen. Count Pulaski.

J. M. NESBITT TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Sir,

You will please to inform the Council that I did not receive their letter untill it was too late to answer it last night, & am sorry to find they should think I neglected giving a reply to a former letter from them. The situation of the vessel they enquired about I thought I could better explain in person than by letter, & went up to the State House for this purpose, but found the Council too much engaged to be admitted, but the Vice President being out of the room, I had an opportunity of informing him that the Marine Committee of Congress had taken upon them the direction of the Cutter Revenge, & I believe meant to let her out for account of the Continent; & this I requested he would inform Council of. The Cutter still lyes by, & nothing doing with her or to her—one half of her is Public, the other Private Property; neither party wish her again to go to sea. I have been pressing for some determination in respect to her, but have not yet been able to obtain one, but I believe the issue will be a public sale & an early one I hope.

If bought for the Continent, I have understood they mean to fit her out to cruise along the Coast.

I have the honor to be sir,
y^r most obed^t serv^t,

J. M. NESBITT.

Philadelphia, March 9th, 1779.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

PRES. REED TO MARINE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS, 1779.

Council Chamber, March 9, 1779.

Gentlemen,

The severe depredations made by the enemy upon our Trade, have determined the Board to make a vigorous exertion for our Relief. With these views we have been some time looking out for a suitable Vessel to fit out as a Guarda Costa, when Captain Conyngham arrived. The value & fitness of his Vessel was at once acknowledged, & as we understood she belonged to Messrs. Nesbitt & Co., subjects of the State, we immediately applied to them for her, & to know the Terms.

We did not till this Day receive any explicit answer, & now we are informed that one half of her belongs to the Continent; of course your Consent will now be necessary. We have therefore to request of your Honourable Board to acquaint us as soon as convenient, whether it will be agreeable to you to accommodate the State with her so far as the United States are interested. We would, in this Case, propose an Estimation of Value to be made, & then we will take her at the Appraisment, or if more agreeable to you, charter her for a Cruise on such Terms as we can agree.

When we reflect upon the Inactivity of this Vessel, at a time of such Distress to our Trade, we persuade ourselves your Feelings must be similar to ours, & that you will readily concur in any Measure which may tend to revenge the loss we have sustained, & remove as much as possible all further apprehensions.

I am, with due respect & regard Gen^l,
your most obed^t.

Directed,

1779, March 9th, To the Hon^{ble} Marine Committee of Congress.

GENERAL ROBERDEAU TO SECRETARY MATLACK, 1779.

March 10th, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I know your many avocations, and you need no apology for forgetting a trifle. You'll be pleased to send me, ~~3~~ Bearer, two Magazines and the rough Draft of Evidence against John Walters, & oblige, Dear Sir,

your most obed^t hum^a serv^t,

DAN'L ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary of the State of Pennsylvania.

Head Quarters, Middlebrook, 10 March, 1779.

Sir,

I had the honor of your favor of the 5th instant.

I am much obliged to you for that attention you discover to prevent any intercourse with the enemy, which might be attended with doubtful circumstances. I had taken my measures with the gentlemen, which are the objects of your information, before I received your letter, and restricted them to our own lines at Elizabeth Town point, where they had liberty to see their friends if they could obtain leave to come over. This I imagined a sufficient security against any consequences, which might be apprehended from a more liberal indulgence.

I have the honor to be,

with great respect,

your most hum^a serv^t,G^a WASHINGTON.*Directed,*

To the Honorable George Bryan, Esqr.

* See page 225.

GEN. ST. CLAIR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Camp at Millstone, March 11th, 1779.

Sir,

I find there is a great deal of Money due to the Soldiers of the different Regiments from the Recruiting Officers on account of their Bountys which the Officers say they could not receive in Philadelphia there being then no money in the Treasury. The State Bountys cannot be paid here at any Rate, and the Auditors will pass no accounts for the Continental Bountys because the officers have not settled their accounts with the State, and the Men are clamorous about it Their Bountys should certainly be paid and it would perhaps be well enough to send here the accounts of the Recruiting Officers for settlement, as it will be inconvenient, their going to Philadelphia, as well as very expensive. I know not whether this will answer, and only throw it out as a hint, that the accounts might be sent to the commanding officers of Regiments, and they be required to settle them for their respective Corps.

I am sorry to trouble you so often but if we can once get things right, we will endeavour to keep them so. There is a very large sum due to Colonel Stewarts Regiment, as he will probably be soon in Philadelphia you will undoubtedly see him.

I have the honour

to be Sir, your most

obedient humble Servant,

Ar. ST. CLAIR.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1779.

In General Assembly,

Of Pennsylvania, March 11th, 1779.

The House entering upon the consideration of the defence of this State.

Resolved,

That the several papers upon that subject, now in the possession of this House, be transmitted to Council, and that it be recommended to them to concert with Congress, and with Gen. Washington the necessary measures for that purpose, and this House will provide

Funds to enable Council to carry such concerted measures into execution so far as of right ought to be defrayed by this State.

Extract from the minutes,

JOHN MORRIS, jr.,*

Clk of Gen. Ass'y

PRES. REED TO CAPT. STILES, 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a, March 11th, 1779.

Sir,

The Season of the Year now admitting & the publick Service requiring that we should put ourselves in the best Posture of Defence we have directed Mr. Henry to deliver over to you all the small arms Gun Barrells, Ammunition & other Stores not merely Naval. And we request you would immediately employ suitable Persons to put in complete Repair, & Order all the small arms you have or can collect. The Gun Barrells to be stock'd, Accoutrements &c., to be provided so as to be in Readiness for Service as soon as may be. You will also make Inquiry if there are any arms of good Quality to be purchased in the City or elsewhere, within our Reach & suggest any other Measures which may have occur'd to you to obtain a supply competent to any reasonable contingency. From your former attention & care we doubt not every thing will be done in your power to comply with our expectations & Desires.

I am Sir, your

very Hble Serv^t,

J. R.

Directed,

To Capt. Joseph Stiles.

PRES. REED TO MR. HOLKER CONSUL OF FRANCE, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, March 11th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 9th Inst has been duly received & attended to. The only Measures in our Power would be to issue a Proclamation for apprehending the Persons described in your Letter. But

* See Col. Rec. Vol., XI., p. 718.

we are fully of Opinion that an Advertisement giving a more particular Description of the Men & offering a Reward would be much more effectual, We do not mention this as declining any assistance which publick Authority can give, but as expressive of our Opinion of the most efficacious Remedy, because we shall chearfully exert every legal Power to comply with your Desire in the fullest Extent if upon further consideration you think our Aid is necessary.

I am with great

Respect & Regard.

Sir, your obed. Hble Sv't.

Directed,

To Mr. Holker Consul of France.

PRES. REED TO MAJOR GEORGE HENRY, 1779.

In Council,

Philada., March 11th, 1779.

Sir,

The Season of the Year admitting, & the publick Service requiring it, we have directed Capt. Boys* to get the Gallies ready with all Expedition, & to call upon you for such articles of Repairs as are absolutely necessary recommending Economy in the strongest terms. You will therefore supply them out of the Naval store with what is wanted, or purchase it & employ such Carpenters & other Workmen to make the repairs indispensably necessary. We would wish to have the Store overhauled & a return made—all the small arms, Gun Berrells, Ammunition &c., delivered over to Capt. Stiles & the rest put up in such manner as you think best, It is our Desire also that the Guns & other Military stores at Trenton or elsewhere be brought down with all convenient speed & the whole of the Publick Stock collected together at one Place. There is a 24 or 18 pounder at Bordentown belonging to Mr. Joseph Leonard of Monmouth which having been offered to us we shall take & satisfy Mr. Leonard when he calls, his Friend Mr Searle made the offer for him. In short we would wish you to exert yourself, as the Defence of the River is Matter of common concern & we shall all stand culpable before the publick if thro' any Omission of ours the Enemy should make a successful Incursion upon us.

I am Sir, your

Obed. Hbbl. Serv't,

J. R.

Directed.

To Major George Henry.

* See Col Rec., Vol. XI., p. 717.

PRES. REED TO COL. BULL, 1779.

In Council,

Philada., March 11th, 1779.

Sir,

From the Expectation you gave me yesterday, The Council will depend upon your procuring a Number of Hands under the Direction of a suitable Person to repair the Banks of Mud Island. I should be glad you would let me know where I could send to you occasionally, as I fancy we shall have Occasion for your Services in some more extensive way.

I am Sir, your

Obed. Hbbl. Serv't,

J. R.*

Directed,

To Col. John Bull.

PRESIDENT REED TO CAPTAIN BOYS, 1779.

In Council, Philadelphia, March 11th, 1779.

Sir,

The season of the year now admitting, & the publick Service requiring, you will have the Gallies, under your Command, got ready with all expedition. You will apply to Major George Henry for such articles & Repairs as are absolutely necessary, & the great expence attending all disbursements, will require the utmost Prudence & Oeconomy; & as the Board have great Reliance upon your Care & Attention, we doubt not your utmost exertions to answer our expectations.

I am sir,

your obed^t hum^e serv^t,JOS. REED, Presid^t.

Captain Boys.†

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI. p. 717.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XL, p. 717.

MARINE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

State House, March 12, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform your Excellency that upon a full consideration of the complicated affairs of the Cutter Revenge,* it has been thought proper, and so it is determined by Congress, that the Vessel, with her guns, apparel, &c., shall be sold at public auction. And the Marine Committee has directed that the sale shall be made at the Coffee House, next Wednesday evening.

I have the honor to be,

with much esteem and respect,

your Excellencies most obt,

& very hum^e serv^t,

RICHARD HENRY LEE,

Chairman M. C.

Directed,

To his Excellency President Reed.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN GARDNER, 1779.

On the Twelfth day of March, A. D. 1779, before me, Plunket Fleeson, Esquire, one of the Justices, &c., came John Gardiner, of Westnantmel township, in the County of Chester, and being duly sworn, deposed, and said That on the sixteenth day of January last, he entered into the Continental service with five teams, at forty shillings per diem for each team, to be found forage for the horses, and one ration per diem for each driver. Four of the said teams to be continued in the service two months, and one of them at his own discretion. That he took loading at Downings town on the same day, and came to Philadelphia. That he, on the twentieth day of the same month, was ordered by Major Lusk to get ready to go to Morris town, and went down to Colonel Mitchells and obtained an order for forage and provisions for the journey, and having drawn his forage, he, the deponent, went back again to Colonel Mitchells, where there was a Captain Hunt, who enquired of Colonel Mitchell whether the Waggon were ready for him, to which Colonel Mitchell replied, Here is the Waggon Master who is to go with you. That the deponent then went down with Major Lusk to the sign of the Indian King, where they met with the aforesaid Hunt, and then went into Water street and loaded at the store of one Mr. Nixon.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 720, 721.

That deponent then came up to Colonel Mitchell and drew a sum of money from the said Mitchell to support him on his journey, in cases where he could not obtain forage and provisions from the continent. That deponent then asked Colonel Mitchell's clerk for his orders, to which the clerk replied, there was no occasion for orders, as he had already got his loading. That deponent, on his arrival at Morris town, delivered his loading, consisting of Rum, Sugar, Coffee and Brandy, to the said Captain Hunt, at Benjamin Arnolds, at Morris town. That deponent observing the receipt for the said goods was signed Jesse Hunt, and recollecting that it was usual in cases of like kind, for officers to write their title of office, he requested Hunt so to do, which he declined, saying that he did not put any title to his name. That deponent observed the said merchandize, were not marked as he thinks public stores usually are, and that Jesse Hunt was very particular in examining into the proof of the rum, &c., before a receipt was given for the same—a precaution which is not always taken in case of public stores. That after delivering his loading, deponent applied to the Quarter Master for an order for forage, which the Quarter Master hesitated to give him, expressing a doubt of his loading having been public property, whereupon deponent showed him the entry of those waggons into public service, which the Quarter Master said was sufficient to justify him, and the order was accordingly granted. That deponent drew forage and rations both going and coming. That deponent was then ordered to the Camp where the Maryland troops lay. That on deponents return to Trenton he saw in the New Jersey paper an advertisement of Rum, Sugar, &c., to be sold wholesale and retail by the aforesaid Benjamin Arnold, at Morris town. That when the Waggoners were loading at Philadelphia, they were not well pleased that Captain Hunt offered them nothing to drink, as the weather was cold, and they thought a dram was necessary, whereupon they hesitated, and said it was not their business to risk the loading of such kind of goods, whereupon the said Hunt procured porters to load the Waggoners, and paid them as if the goods had been private property.* And further the said deponent said not.

JOHN GARDNER.

Sworn before me, at Philadelphia, the day aforesaid, after this Deponent had carefully examined the Contents of this written Deposition, & directed the alterations made therein.

PLUNKET FLEESON.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 721.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 12th March, 1779.

Sir,

You will receive herewith enclosed a copy of an Act of Congress of the 10th Instant, for recruiting the army.

The Virtue & Perseverance displayed by the Citizens of America in the course of the war, leave no room to doubt of their determination to obtain the great objects of it.

Force and Power in the field are necessary to render us safe at home, respectable abroad, and successful in negotiation.

As there is great reason to expect that this Campaign, if successful, will be the last, I am persuaded the different States will, the more chearfully, adopt every measure which may be necessary to render the issue of it honorable to the American arms, and auspicious to American Liberty and Independence.

I have the honor to be,

with great respect,

your Excellencys

most obed^t serv^t,

JOHN JAY, President.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

SEC'Y MATLACK TO COMM'RS OF FORFEITED ESTATES, 1779.

Philadelphia, 12th March, 1779.

Sir,

It is become necessary, that the Inventories & other returns of the forfeited Estates, whether real or personal, vested in the State by the Act of Assembly intituled "An Act for the attainder of divers Traitors if &c.," should be compleated, the personal sold & the proceeds thereof transmitted to the Treasurer of this Commonwealth. It is wished that you review the instructions formerly sent to you by this board for your conduct in this business, & compare the same with the returns hitherto made to the Register's office, & see whether any deficiency has happened. At the Supreme Court which sits in April next, the state of all forfeited property will be called for, in order not only to satisfy the Creditors, but also to enable the Court to provide for the wives & children of the attainted, according to the directions of the merciful Laws of this Commonwealth.

Besides, as Council has recommended to the Legislature, that the sale of the real Estate forfeited by the Traitor should be hastened by a supplement to the Act abovement^d, this is an additional motive for this call.

If therefore there be any Estate, or property of this nature passed over by you, or the other agents of your County, or any returns called for by your instructions, which have not been made, or not sufficiently particularized, you are desired to supply the deficiency without farther delay, by transmitting the necessary information to T. M., Esquire the Register.

MATTHEW IRWIN TO PRES'T REED, 1779.

Philada., 18th March, 1779.

Sir,

I hereby take the liberty of acquainting your Excellency that no farther progress can be made in Riging the New Ship without Ballast, the Workmen are now Idle. The owners therefore request your Excellency will let them know whether you will take them or not.

I am your Excellencies

most obed. & humble Serv't,

MATTH'W IRWIN.*

Directed,

His Excellency Jos. Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

RESOLUTIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1779.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania,

Saturday March 18th, 1779.

The following resolutions reported by the committee appointed to devise some plan for supplying the troops of this State with necessities, &c., were read a second time and being debated and considered were agreed to, viz^t.

1st. Resolved,

That in consideration of the services rendered by the said troops, and to relieve as much as possible the inconveniences to which they

* See answer page 246.

are at present subjected, to every officer of the Pennsylvania line who by a resolution of Congress of shall be entitled to receive half pay during seven years after the termination of the present war the half pay to be continued by this State from the end of the said seven years for and during the life of every such Officer.

2ndly Resolved,

That the present mode of distributing to the Officers and soldiers of the Pennsylvania line, the several articles voted by this House at their last Sessions at prices in a certain ratio or proportion to the original cost be discontinued, and instead thereof they be delivered to them at the following determinate rates, vizt,

West india rum at	5s. per gallon.
Muscovado Sugar at	8s. 9d. per pound.
Coffee at	3s. 9d. ditto.
Tea at	12s. ditto.
Chocolate at	3s. 9d. ditto.
Hard Soap at	1s. 3d. ditto:
Tobacco at	9d. ditto.

3rdly Resolved,

That to every Officer of said troops a compleat suit of regimental uniform be furnished every year by this State, to be charged to the officer at the price for which the said uniform might have been purchased at the commencement of the War.

4thly Resolved,

That the lands which may be granted within this State to officers and soldiers serving in the troops of the State in consequence of a resolution of Congress of September the sixteenth, 1776, shall be exempted from taxation whilst they continue in the possession of such officers or soldiers, and before any alienation thereof made and not after.

5thly Resolved,

That from and after the passing of this resolve the widows of the officers of this State in the Continental service, who have died in the service since the commencement of the present war, or who may die during the continuance thereof, shall be entitled to the half of the pay which their husbands were respectively entitled to, while in the service during her widowhood.

Extract from the Minutes.

(Copy.)

PRES'T REED TO MESSRS. IRWIN & Co., 1779.

In Council,
Philada., March 13th, 1779.

Sir,

In answer to yours this Morning,* I assure you nothing but absolute Necessity could have obliged us to keep you so long in Suspence. It was necessary to state the Matter to the House of Ass^y, in a very few Days a decisive answer will be given, in the meantime we could wish if it is consistent with your Plan & Views that the Rigging of the Ship may go on & every Expence will be allowed in Case the State should determine it necessary to take her.

I am Sir, your
obed. Hbbl. Serv't.

Directed,
Messrs. Irwin & Co.

PRESIDENT REED TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Council.
Philada., March 13th, 1779.

Sir

One Frederick Verner a Subject of this State was tried last Summer† by a Court Martial upon a Charge of being a Spy for the British Army & condemned to suffer Death. Some Doubts arising respecting the Sufficiency of the Evidence as well as the Legality of the Tryal he has remained ever since in the State Prison. An Opp^r now offers of exchanging him for a Person under a like Sentence passed at New York in Consequence of an Attempt to bring over to us a Vessel loaded with Goods much wanted among us. The regular Forms of Law in this case we apprehend may be dispensed with if your Hon. House will direct the Gaoler of the State Prison to deliver Verner to the Sheriff of the City & the United States shall not be farther charged or troubled with him.

I am Sir, your
obed. Hbbl. Serv't.

Directed,
To the Honble John Jay, Esq., President of Congress.

* See page 244.

† See Vol. VI., p. 718, also Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 720, 721

J. M. NESBITT TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philada., March 13th, 1779.

Sir,

I am much obliged to Council for their so soon furnishing me wth their resolution in answer to my Request in behalf of Mrs Elliott,* & I hope they will excuse my giving them some farther trouble in this affair.

I agree wth the Council in the Construction of the Act of Assembly, for I did not suppose that the Judges of the Supream Court would grant any pension or allowance to the wife or family of a person attainted while they remained with the Enemy, but I believe it is Mrs. Elliots Intention to remove here with her family & I hope the Council will think with me that it is necessary she should be here before she attempts such removal, as well to provide a place for the reception of Her Family, as to know whether any allowance will be made Her for its Support, untill one or both of these things are fixed it would be Imprudent in Mrs. Elliott to attempt to move Her Family, & yet it is very necessary for Her to be here at the next meeting of the Supream Court, the Council I hope on reconsidering the matter will be of this opinion & grant the necessary passes which will much oblige,

Sir, y^r mo. obed^t &most hum. Serv^t

J. M. NESBITT.

*Directed,*His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r.

GOV. PATRICK HENRY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

W^{ash}burgh, March 13th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favor of the 21st ult^a is come to Hand, & I should gladly cooperate with you in the Salutary Design of checking the Enemies Depredations on the Trade of these States, by laying a general Embargo, if the Law had given Authority to do so. But as this is not the Case, all I can do will be to lay the Matter before the next general Assembly, which meets the first Monday in May. With great Regard I have the Honor to be.†

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 718.

† Autograph stolen. See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 725, and p. 197 of this vol.

COUNCIL TO CAPTAIN BOYS, 1779.

Sir,

The Council wish you to exert yourself in getting the Galleys and boats in readiness to take their Stations as soon as may be.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Philada., March 13, 1779.

To Cap^t Boys, Present.

SEC'Y. MATLACK TO JOHN MITCHELL, 1779.

Philada., March 13th, 1779.

Sir,

The Council direct me to apply to you for a waggon to convey 500 weight of gunpowder and 100 weight of lead, with a few other small articles, to Shippensburg,* for the use of the militia of Westmoreland county. The forwarding of these stores is under the care and direction of Christopher Hays, Esq^r, Lieutenant of said Co^v.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient

and very humble Servant,

TIMOTHY MATLACK, Sec'y.

John Mitchell, D. Q. M. G^t.

BLAIR M'CLENACHAN & C. TO PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, 1779.

Philada., March 15th, 1779.

Agreeable to your Order of the 13th Inst, We have examined the Cutter Revenge,† and are of Opinion that she is better calculated for a Gaurd a Costa than any other Vessel in the harbour, or that can now be procured.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 720.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., pp. 720, 721.

She is remarkably well found, and think her worth from Thirty five to Forty Thousand pounds. We have the Honor to be Your most Obed^t & Very H^{ble} Serv^t,

BLAIR M'CLENACHAN,
GEORGE HENRY,
JOSEPH RUSH.

Directed,

To His Excellency the President & Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Indorsed,

17th March, agreed to write B. McClenachan to bid for her, for the public Service, authorising him to bid as high as £40,000, but not to loose the Vessel tho' she cost £45,000.*

RESOLVE OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, March 15, 1779.

Resolved,

That all Officers, non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers, now belonging to the Corps of Light Dragoons, and Artillery and Infantry, and the Corps of Artillery Artificers, commissioned and inlisted since the 16th of September, 1776, for three Years, or during the War, or which shall hereafter be so commissioned and inlisted, not being Part of the Eighty-eight Battalions originally apportioned on the States, be considered as Parts of the Quotas of the several States to which they did or shall respectively belong when so commissioned or inlisted. And that where it has happened, or shall happen, that any non-commissioned Officers or Soldiers of those Corps shall not have gained a Settlement in any Part of the United States, they shall be considered as belonging to the State in which they were or shall be inlisted, and credited accordingly as Part of the Quota of such State :

That for the Purpose of ascertaining the States to which the Officers and Soldiers now in the Corps aforesaid shall be deemed to belong, the Commander in Chief be directed to cause Returns to be made to him without Delay, of the Names of all the Officers, non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers in the said Corps, and the States, Counties and Towns to which they belonged, or in which they were inlisted as aforesaid ; which Returns shall be transmitted to the

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 721. Also, 252 of this Vol.

Board of War, who shall send to the respective States Lists of the Names and Ranks of all Officers and Soldiers to be credited to them as aforesaid. The like Returns to be made afterwards, once every three Months, of all Officers, non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers who shall have entered into these Corps after making the said first Returns.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.*

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, 15th March, 1779.

Resolved,

That the keeper of the State prison be directed to deliver Frederick Verner to the Sheriff of the City of Philadelphia.

Extract from the minutes.

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.†

THOMAS CUSHING TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Boston, March 15, 1779

Sir:

I sincerely congratulate you upon your advancement to the chief Seat of Government in Pennsylvania, May your Administration be easy to yourself and happy to the People over whom you preside. It seems you have great and good News at Philadelphia, we cannot as yet ascertain what it is, should be glad to be favored with it as soon as Congress will permit it to transpire.

It is reported here, that, among the rest of the news you have received, Congress have had some Proposals from the Ministry of Great Britain, by the Way of New York. They Propose to acknowledge our Independency, withdraw their Troops from America, and to enter into a Treaty of Amity & commerce with the United States, provided Great Britain retains The Floridas, Nova Scotia, Canada, and an exclusive right to the Fishery on the Banks of New Foundland. The People here are totally against Great Britain, having an exclusive right to the Fishery, but insist upon America's having a

* From handbill.

† See page 246. Also, Col. Rec., Vol. XL, p. 720, 721.

right as heretofore, to Fish upon the Banks aforesaid without Interruption or Molestation; as to Florida, Nova Scotia and Canada, altho it is their sincere wish that they might be Independent & United with the Rest of the States of America, yet it is the prevailing opinion that in making this Treaty, Their being made so ought not to be insisted upon, as a sine qua non.

If any thing of this sort is in agitation I hope Congress will be lead into those determinations that are the wisest & most for the Interest of the United States.

Permit me to Introduce to your Acquaintance Mr. Henry Newman, a Kinsman of mine, a young Gentleman who is travelling for his Health, I beg leave to recommend him to your Friendly Notice, any civility you may shew him, I shall esteem as an addition to the many Favors and civilities I received at your House when at Philadelphia, of which I shall ever retain a grateful Remembrance.

The many Agreeable Hours we have spent together in social Intercourse leads me to wish that our acquaintance may not be sunk into oblivion, and I Assure you, it will give me pleasure at all times to hear of the Happiness and Prosperity of you and yours, pray give my respectful Compliments to Mrs. Read, and Madam De Berdt. I conclude with great Respect,

Your most Obed^t humble Serv^t

THOMAS CUSHING.

His Excellency Joseph Read Esqr.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, March 16th, 1778.*

Whereas, Congress have not received information of the measures which the several States have from time to time adopted in consequence of their recommendations, and whereas such information together with the consent of the respective legislatures in vigorously executing the resolutions of Congress is essentially necessary to enable them to transact the important concerns of the United States.

Resolved. That the governors and presidents of the said States be earnestly requested to transmit to Congress as soon as possible attested copies of the acts passed by their respective legislatures in pursuance of recommendations of Congress which they may have received since the first day of November last, and of all acts which they may hereafter pass in consequence of future recommendations.

Extracts from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

* Should be 1779, see Col. Rec. Vol. XII. p. 188. Read in Council, Dec. 8, 1779.

V. P. BRYAN TO BLAIR McCLENAGHAN, 1779.

In Council, Philadelphia, March 17, 1779.

Sir :

The Council requests, that you will attend the sale of the Cutter Revenge, this day at the Coffee House and bid for her for the public Service.

She has been valued at £35,000, and we request you to purchase her at as low a price as you can, but not to miss this opportunity of a suitable vessel for protecting our trade, should she be sold even so high as 45,000 Pounds.

I am Sir,

Your humble servant,

G. B. V. P.

Mr. Blair McClenaghan.*

V. P. BRYAN, TO HIGH SHERIFF OF PHIL. 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, 17 March 1779.

Sir,

Council have observed that the Pillory & Whipping post of this County, contrary to the common usage of the Countries where the English common Law received, are placed in retired places & not in or near the Market. As punishments of this sort are rather influential on others, than on the criminal himself, much of the usefulness of public punishments by this circumstance is lost. I have it therefore in charge, to call upon you, to replace the Pillory & Whipping post in the public Market of this City, referring you to the County Commis^{rs} for the expence.

I am,

Sir,

Yrs &c.

G. B. Vice Preside^{nt}.

To James Claypoole, Esquire.

High Sheriff of Philad^a Co.

* See page 249. Also Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 721.

JAMES DUNDAS, TO COUNCIL 1779.

Philadelphia, March 18th, 1779.

The Subscriber begs leave to represent to the Hon^r. the Supreme Executive Council, that it will take about one thousand Pounds to discharge the Bal^{ce} due to sundry Persons employed on the Fortifications at Billingsport, and Red Bank, in the year 1777.

That a large proportion of the Money he last received by order of your Hon^r. Board, for the purpose above mentioned, was of the Emissions called out of circulation, and that several of the People have refused to take it in payment, which has tended to retard the settlement of the public acc^t.

The Subscriber therefore begs that the Hon^r. Council would be pleased to order their Treasurer to pay him such Money as may answer the intended purpose.

JAMES DUNDAS, P. M.

The Hon^r. the Supreme Executive Council.

REV. WILLIAM ROGERS TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Philadelphia, March 18, 1779.

The Honorable the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

From December last I have been on Duty in this Garrison, by order of his Excellency General Washington.

Having the Happiness of appertaining to the Pennsylvania Line, I called a few Days past at the State Store, to procure some Linnen & other necessaries. The Person attending inform'd me that an order from Council was necessary. Your Hon^{ble} Body, therefore, granting One, will greatly oblige me, as I stand in much need, and cannot, without disadvantage to myself & Family, purchase at the present Exorbitant Prices.

Moreover observing in the Public Papers the generous Resolutions enter'd into by the present Assembly, respecting their officers and soldiery, I hope Council will extend unto me, while on Duty in this

City, the same Priviledges to which I should be Entitled, granting I was in Camp.

I am gentlemen,
your most obed^t & very
humble servant.

WILLIAM ROGERS,
Brigade Chaplain.*

Directed,

To the Hon^{ble} the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Indorsed.—Read in Council, March 26.

Petition granted.

T. M.

OFFICERS OF ARTILLERY TO COUNCIL, 1779.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Supreme Executive Council, State of Pennsylvania.

We, the officers of the Regiment of Artillery, commanded by Colonel Thomas Procter, having hitherto been Refused the priviledges which other Officers of this State have enjoyed in receiving Cloathing and other necessaries for that purpose provided. We now Humbly request that your Excellency will, in consequence of a Resolve of the Honorable the Assembly of the 12th Instant, by which we are considered a part of their Quota of troops in the Continentall Army, Grant us an Order to receive such Cloathing & other Necessaries as is voted by this State.

We beg leave to inform your Excellency that there is now in the Hands of Mr. Howell some articles of Cloathing, which have been made for us some time, and wait an Order of Council to be issued.

We are, in behalf of the Regim^t,
your Excellencys most ob^t serv^t,

THOS FORREST, Major.
J. CRAIG, Captain.

Philadelphia, March 19th, 1779.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., in Council.

Indorsed,

Mr. Howell, Receiver of Cloathing, having resigned his office, ordered that Colonel Tanner be appointed in his stead, that Mr. Howell deliver over all the Cloathing in hand to Colonel Tanner, & prepare his account for settlement.†

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 727.

† *Ib.*, p. 726.

LEWIS NICOLA TO GENERAL WAYNE, 1779.

Sr,

Agreeable to your desire that I should reduce into writing what I proposed to you yesterday, I beg leave to represent that agreeable to part of the plan I offered to Congress for forming the Invalid Regiment, it was not only to be a retreat for those who suffered in the service, but a recruiting corps & military school—agreeable to this plan I began to enlist for the army, but before I could make any progress we were obliged to evacuate the city, & shortly after, the State encreasing the bounty for such as entered in the Pennsylvania line to 120 Dollars, I could not expect any men would engage with me when I could offer no more than 20. ✓

Anxious to do every thing in my power for the service of the United States, particularly that in which I have lived since I came to America, & have the honor to serve in a military capacity, I beg leave to revive that part of the scheme which has laid dormant for the above reason, & which I apprehend will be attended with the following advantages.

Every man in the Invalid Regiment, stimulated by the reward, will become a recruiter, without neglecting his other duties, by which, it is probable, few that can be induced to enlist in or about this city will remain undiscovered.

The officers which would be sent here on this service may attend their duty in camp, & avoid the extraordinary expences incident to living in this city, & its temptations to dissipation.

The non-commissioned officers & recruits, who, in the present mode, are encouraged or innitiated in every species of vice, by living in rendezvous, where they are received only for the sake of the money they expend in liquor, will be freed in a great measure from this, by living in the barracks under the eyes & immediate care of the Invalid Officers, and may be obliged to answer roll calling three times a day, which will render desertion more difficult.

The officers recruiting in the country may, as often as opportunities serve, send their men here, as to a general rendezvous, from whence returns may be sent you weekly, that you may judge when necessary to send commissioned or non commissioned officers to receive & march them to camp, or if more agreeable, a few trusty non commissioned officers from the Pennsylvania line might constantly be kept here to be dispatched as soon as ten or a dozen men were assembled or recruited.

If this is approved of, you may be certain nothing shall be wanting on my side to the success thereof.

Permit me to assure you that I am,
with respect sir, your most obed^t serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA.

March 19th, 1779.

Directed,--To the Hon^{ble} General Wayne.

RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

At a Board of War, 19th March, 1779.

Ordered, that the Secretary of the Board transmit to the Supreme Executive Council of this State, a copy of a letter received this day from Major General Arnold.

Extract from the minutes.

P. SCULL, Secretary.

GENERAL ARNOLD TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

(Copy.)

Philadelphia, March 19, 1779.

Sir,

Having sometime since obtained permission of his Excellency, General Washington, I have this day resigned my Command in this City to Brigadier General Hogan, of which I thought proper to give the Hon'ble Board of War notice, and that notwithstanding my having given up the command, I shall be happy at all times of rendering my Country every service in my power.

I am, with respect, Sir,

Your obd't h'l Serv't,

B. ARNOLD.

Directed,

Major Scull, Sec'y to the Board of War.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

War Office, 19th March, 1779.

Sir,

In obedience to the inclosed order of the Board, I have the honor to furnish your Excellency with a copy of Major General Arnold's Letter, mentioning his resignation of the military command in this City.*

I have the honor to be,

With high respect,

Your Excellency's

Very obed't Serv't,

P. SCULL,
Secretary.*Directed,*

To His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 725.

PROCLAMATION OF CONGRESS FOR A FAST, &c., 1779.

PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, in just Punishment of our manifold Transgressions, it hath pleased the Supreme Disposer of all Events to visit these United States with a Calamitous War, through which his Divine Providence hath hitherto in a wonderful Manner conducted us, so that we might acknowledge that the Race is not to the Swift, nor the Battle to the Strong: And whereas, notwithstanding the Chastisements received and Benefits bestowed, too few have been sufficiently awakened to a Sense of their Guilt, or warmed with Gratitude, or taught to amend their Lives and turn from their Sins, that so he might turn from his Wrath: And whereas, from a Consciousness of what we have merited at his Hands, and an Apprehension that the Malevolence of our disappointed Enemies, like the Incredulity of Pharaoh, may be used as the Scourge of Omnipotence to vindicate his slighted Majesty, there is reason to fear that he may permit much of our Land to become the Prey of the Spoiler, our Borders to be ravaged, and our Habitations destroyed.

Resolved,

That it be recommended to the several States to appoint the First *Thursday* in *May* next to be a Day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer to Almighty God, that he will be pleased to avert those impending Calamities which we have but too well deserved: That he will grant us his Grace to repent of our Sins and amend our Lives according to His Holy word: That he will continue that wonderful Protection which hath led us through the Paths of Danger and Distress: That he will be a Husband to the Widow, and a Father to the fatherless Children, who weep over the Barbarities of a Savage Enemy: That he will grant us Patience in Suffering, and Fortitude in Adversity: That he will inspire us with Humility, Moderation, and Gratitude in prosperous Circumstances: That he will give Wisdom to our Councils, Firmness to our Resolutions, and Victory to our Arms: That he will bless the Labours of the Husbandman, and pour forth Abundance, so that we may enjoy the Fruits of the Earth in due Season: That he will cause Union, Harmony, and mutual Confidence to prevail throughout these States: That he will bestow on our great Ally all those Blessings which may enable him to be gloriously instrumental in protecting the Rights of Mankind; and promoting the Happiness of his Subjects: That he will bountifully continue his parental Care to the Commander in Chief, and the Officers and Soldiers of the United States: That he will grant the Blessings of Peace to all contending Nations, Freedom to those who are in Bondage, and comfort to the Afflicted: that he will diffuse Useful Knowledge, extend the Influence of True Religion, and give

us that Peace of Mind which the World cannot give: That he will be our Shield in the Day of Battle, our Comforter in the hour of Death, and our kind Parent and merciful Judge through time and through Eternity.

Done in Congress, this Twentieth Day of March, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-Nine, and in the Third Year of our Independence.

JOHN JAY, President.*

Attest Charles Thomson, Secretary.

COL. HARTLEY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

York, March the 20th, 1779.

Sir,

Very bad weather and a pain in my Breast have detained me here a few Days longer than I expected.

I have just received a Letter from Capt. Bush on the Frontiers, all seems quiet there still, but they are in hourly Expectation of the Enemy, for Six weeks the Troops there have been without Spirituous Liquor—this may be of considerable Injury in Case any of the Posts should be invested. I wrote to the officers from Philadelphia mentioning that Council would send them some stores.

I must now beg your Excellency that their share of stores, &c., should be immediately sent to Coxes Town, near Harrisess Ferry, they have hard service, whilst the other Troops of the Army are in comfortable Quarters.

If you could see Mr. Blaine it would be well to request him to send forward Whiskey for the Troops, immediately. They have been much neglected in that particular lately—probably Mr. Cox could not procure it in his neighborhood.

I am with great Respect,

Your most obed't humble Serv't,

THOS. HARTLEY.

P. S. Colonel Miller is still out of Business, and waits for what your Excellency and the Council may do in his Favour.

T. H.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the State of Penna., Philada.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 725. From a Handbill.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN PARKER, 1779.

Pennsylvania ss.

Before me Plunket Fleeson, Esquire, one of the Justices of the Peace &c., comes John Parker of the City of Philadelphia, Bricklayer, and being duly sworn deposeth and saith, That on the evening of the day on which the attack was made by the Vigilant on the fort at Mud island, being in conversation with Peter Cress of the said city saddler & Harness maker, he the said Peter Cress told him the deponent, that having been down on the bank near the mouth of Schuylkil he there saw Doctor William Smith, and that he the said Peter Cress heard the said Doctor Smith say, that if the people in the fort did not surrender they ought to be every man of them put to the sword—And further this deponent saith not.

JOHN PARKER.

Sworn before me at Philadelphia this twentieth day of March, A. D. 1779.

PLUN'T. FLEESON.

DEPOSITION OF PETER CRESS, 1779.

Pennsylvania ss.

Before me Plunket Fleeson, Esquire, one of the Justices of the peace &c., comes Peter Cress of the city of Philadelphia, Saddle & Harness maker and being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, That on the day on which the attack was made by the Vigilant on the fortification at Mud island, Doctor William Smith, Provost of the college of Philadelphia, with a number of other people of the city of Philadelphia, was on the banks near the mouth of the river Schuylkil, viewing the attack with a large Spy-Glass or Telescope. That after the firing from the Round tops of the Vigilant began and was returned from the fort he the said Peter Cress was standing behind and very near the said Doctor Smith, and heard him the said Doctor Smith say, that if they, the men in the fort meaning, do not surrender they ought every man of them to be put to the Sword, or words to this effect. And further the deponent saith not.

his
PETER CRESS.
mark

Sworn before me at Philadelphia this twentieth day of March, A. D. 1779.

PLUN'T. FLEESON.

GOV. LIVINGSTON TO PRES'T REED, 1779.

Morris Town, 20 March, 1779.

Sir,

It is but a few days since that I received your favour of the 29th* February. The subject matter of it I shall do myself the honour of laying before our Legislature at their first meeting; and be always ready to exert my best endeavours to induce a co-operation with any Sister State for the general emolument of the Confederacy.

I am Sir, with great

respect, your Excellency's

most obedient & very

humble Servant,

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

COL. THOMAS PROCTOR TO PRES'T REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, March the 22nd, 1779.

Sir,

The Honourable House of Assembly of this Commonwealth having (on application made to them) Resolved, That the Regiment of Artillery under my command be considered as part of the Quota of Troops of this State in the Continental Army, a copy of which Resolve I inclose to your Excellency and beg your Indulgence in laying it before the Honble the Executive Council, as also a state of my Regt, and so far as they shall conceive necessary, request they will Grant monies to recruit the same, having the Officers of Companies (proper for that service) ready to act in the recruiting line when you shall think proper to order, I wait your Excellency's Instructions.

And am with respect,

your most obdt Serv't,

THOS. PROCTOR,

Col. P. Artillery.

Directed,

Joseph Reed, Esq., President of Council.

* See page 197.

JOHN JAY TO PRES'T REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 22nd March, 1779.

Sir,

Inclosed herewith your Excellency will receive two printed copies of an act of Congress of the 20th Inst, recommending to the Several States to appoint the first Thursday in May next to be a day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer.

I have the Honor to be
your Excellency's most
obedient and most
humble Servant,
JOHN JAY,
President.*

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

MATTHEW IRWIN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

The owners of the New Ship† request your Excellency will give them your answer respecting her this day—Sho^d you determine to take her, if you will give me an order on Mr. Henry for Ten or Twelve Tun Pig Iron, I shall have her Rigged in a few days.

I am your Excellency's
most obed^t Serv^t,
MATH'W IRWIN.

Tuesday, 23d March, 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency Jos. Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 725, and page 257 of this Vol.

† Ship Gen. Greene, See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 724.

COUNCIL TO BOWES REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, March 24, 1779.

Sir,

By order of His Excellency the President I request, that you will please to send by the bearer, who is an express from Council, a certificate that a Passport signed by General B. Arnold was offered to the Court of Admiralty on the trial of the Sloop Lovely Nancy or Charming Nancy—The Council are desirous of having the certificate signed by you as late Register of the Court, and to contain a description of the passport, the date of it as near as may be, &c. The express is going forward to Bordentown and will wait upon you for the certificate on his return.

I am very respectfully,

your most obedient

Hm'ble Servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

Directed.

To Bowes Reed, Esq., Burlington.

SEC'Y MATLACK TO COL. MITCHELL, 1779.

Philadelphia, March 24, 1779.

Sir,*

The Council direct me to request your attendance in the Council Chamber—They are now sitting.

I am Sir, your very

humble Servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

Directed,

To Col. J. Mitchell, D. Q. M. G.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI. p. 726.

PRES. REED TO MATTHEW IRWIN, &c., 1779.

Council Chamber.

Gentlemen :

I have just received your Favour. The Council are very glad to find the Appointment* acceptable to you, & repose the most perfect Confidence in you. As to any Alteration in the Name of the Vessel, it would give me very great Pain. General Green is not only a brave, valuable & amiable Character, but my particular Friend. And there is none, the Commander in Chief excepted, to whom I would sooner wish to see any Mark of Respect & Attention shown. You will therefore be good enough to take out the Register in the Name first given.

I am, with great Regard,

Gent, your most

Obed. Hbble. Serv.,

JOS. REED.

March 24, 1779.

*Directed,*To Mess^{rs} Blair McClenachan, and Matthew Irwin, Merchants.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania ;
Wednesday, March 24th, 1779.

The House, taking into Consideration the State of the Officers of the Navy of this Commonwealth, came to the following Resolutions :
Resolved,

That the Officers, Seamen and Marines, employed in the Naval Service of this State, be intitled to all the Allowances and Benefits to which the Officers and Soldiers of this State employed in the Armies of the United States are intitled by the Resolutions passed in this House the thirteenth Instant.

And whereas, the United States have granted half pay for and during the Space of Seven Years to the last described Officers, and not to the former—it is hereby expressly declared and agreed, That the half pay allowed the Naval Officers now employed, or hereafter to be employed by this State, and that shall remain in said Employment or Service during the Continuation of the present War, shall com-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 724.

mence upon the Termination of s^d War and be continued during their lives.

Resolved,

That the Supreme Executive Council be desired and authorized to carry the second and third of the said Resolutions into immediate Execution.

Extract from the Minutes.*

JOHN MORRIS, Jr., Clk. of
the Gen^l Assembly.

Directed.

The Honourable, the Supreme Executive Council.

PRES. REED TO JOHN IMLAY, 1779.

Council Chamber ;
March 24, 1779.

Sir,

By Desire of the Board at which I have the Honour to preside, the Bearer waits upon you Express for Information touching a Passport or other Permission given by Gen. Arnold to the Schooner Lovely Nancy, or charming Nancy, last Summer. We would wish you to certify the Nature & Import of the Passport ; the Time when it was granted ; whether during the Enemy's stay in Philad. ; to whom the Vessel appeared to belong ; & such other Circumstances as your Memory may furnish to elucidate the first Article or Reason in the inclosed Resolves. Council have also been informed, that you have in your Possession a Letter from Gen. Arnold of a very extraordinary Nature on that Subject, which we beg you to transmit. Your Sense of Justice, as well as Regard to the Authority of this State, will, we doubt not, be sufficient Motives to induce you to comply with our Request.

I am, with due Regard,

Sir, Your obed. Hbble. Sev.,

JOS. REED.

Directed,

Hbble. John Imlay, Esq^r, Allen Town.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 727.

MATTHEW IRWIN &C., TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Your fav^r of this morn'g I duely rec^d, together with a resolve of the Honorable Council appointing Mr. Blair M'Clenachan and myself agents for the New Ship. We return your Excellency our thanks for this mark of Confidence, and we do assure you, we shall upon this and every other occasion, use our utmost exertions for the Interest and honor of the State. Tomorrow we shall take the liberty of recommending such officers as we may think most deserving, and let you know what encouragem^t we think should be offered them.

The Register has not yet been taken out for this Vessell,—request you will give us leave to call her therein the General Reed.

I am, For Mr. Blair M'Clenachan & Self,

Your Excellencys most ob'd^t hum. Serv^t,

MATH'W IRWIN.*

25th March, 1779.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779:

Philadelphia, 25th March, 1779.

Sir,

You will receive herewith enclosed, Copies of several Acts of Congress, Viz^t, one of the 22nd Inst., directing a copy of an Act of the 6th of March last, respecting the Controul of Congress by Appeal in the last Resort over all Jurisdictions for deciding the Legality of Captures on the High Seas, to be sent to the several States, which is accordingly enclosed—another of the 22nd May, relative to the exchange of Citizens in captivity with the Indians—and one of the 22nd Inst., directing that Continental officers exchanged, and not continued in Service be considered as Supernumerary Officers.

I have the Honor to be,

With great Respect,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Servant,

JOHN JAY, Presid.

His Excellency President Reed.

* See page 263.

M. IRWIN, &C. TO PRES REED, 1779.

Philada., 27th March, 1779.

Sir,

Your fav^r of Yesterday we duly received, and shall obey your orders respect'g the name of the Ship.

We now take the liberty of recommending to your Excellency three Gentlemen; they are in our opinion the best qualified of any in this place for Comman'g your Ship, and either of them to whom you are pleased to give a preference will be agreeable to us,—Cap^a James Montgomery* who Commanded one of the Gallies when they fought the Roe Buck, Cap^a Houston who lately Commanded the Brig Convention, and Cap^a Green, now in the Employ of the Continent. Mariners being Scarce, we think it will be necessary to offer every able Bodied Seaman one hundred Dollars advance, to be deducted from the Prize money which they may hereafter be entitled to.

The Captured Vessells should in our opinion be divided agreeable to the Continental regulations, by which the Cap^a & Crew are entitled to the full Net proceeds of all the British Kings Vessells and British Privateers, and one half of all Letters of marque and un-commissioned Vessells.

The former owners of the General Green not haveing had a sufficient number of Guns provided to equip her compleatly for a Vessel of War, and the Guns they had provided not being all of the same weight of metal, request your Excellency will recommend us to the Continental Marine Board for the loan of such necessarys as they can supply us with, and allso give us an order on Mr. Henry for such articles as he may have in his possession.

As we are fully convinced that one Vessell will not be a match for the Privateers that now Infest our Capes, we have applyed to Mr. Nesbit, one of the owners of the Cutter, to know if he will hire her to the State for one Cruize to go in Consort with the Ship; he said he would speak to his Partners, and when the applycation came from your Excellency would be prepared for giving an answer.

As a great majority of the merchants of this place (yesterday assembled) conceive it would be of the utmost Importance to the Trade of this place to have this plan adopted, request your Excellency will endeavour to Charter the Cutter for one Cruize, as it is the general opiniou, and for the general good, that those Vessells should have one Cruize in Consort; think the Cutter's owners can

* Appointed. See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 731.

by no means refuse. We think we shall have the Ship ready for sea as soon as the Cutter can be prepared.

We are Your Exoellencys

Most Obd^t humble Serv^{ts}

BLAIR M'CLENACHAN,
MATTH'W IRWIN.

We think it is necessary the Cap^a sho^d be immediately appointed.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

SEC^y. MATLACK TO J. D. SERGEANT, 1779.

Sir,

Council having advanced to Jesse Jordan, Waggon Master, the sum of £450, which it is expected the repayment of depends on the recovery of the money due to him from General Arnold. The Council therefore direct me to enquire of you whether effectual measures have been taken to obtain proper surety for the Gen^ls appearance to answer the demand.

I am, with due respect,

Your very humble Servant,

T^y MATLACK, Sec^y.

To J. D. Serjeant, Esq^r. March 27th, 1779.

PRES. REED TO LIEUTENANTS, &c., 1779.

In Council;

Philadelphia, March 27th, 1779.

On the Inst., after several Conferences with a Committee of Congress on the Defence of the Frontiers, the House of Assembly resolved to commit the whole Business to the Supreme Executive Council, who were to act in Concert with Congress & Gen^l Washington on this important Business. Upon this, as Conference by Letters is very tedious & unsatisfactory, the Presid. proposed to go to the Camp & confer with the Commander in Chief in Person, which he has accordingly done very much to his & our Satisfaction. The General expressed his full Sense of the Importance, Necessity & Duty of taking the most vigorous & speedy Measures for the Support

& Protection of the Frontiers. Such Parts of the Plan as are not necessarily kept secret in order to be more effectually executed we cheerfully communicate to you, & hope it will prove a most powerful Encouragement to our distressed & apprehensive Friends to stand their Ground. A very respectable Force, which has been stationed for some Time at Schohary, in the State of New York, under Gen. Hand, is ordered over to the Frontiers of Northampton & Northumberland, and will, as far as any stationary Force can do, afford ample Protection to those two Counties. It is also concluded to raise 5 Companies of Rangers, making 380 Men in the whole, to whom such Encouragement will be given as we hope will raise the Men without Difficulty. The Commander in Chief has also ordered Col. Rawlins's Reg^t now at Frederick Town, in Maryland, guarding the British Prisoners, to march to Fort Pitt, & to be stationed at Kittanny or other suitable Place to cover the Frontiers of Westmoreland & Bedford. In the mean Time we have ordered Detachments from the Militia of to march with all possible Expedition for the immediate Protection of Bedford & Westmoreland. It is also a very encouraging Circumstance that Gen. Hand, who is to command on the Frontiers of North^a & Northumberland, & Col. Broadhead at Fort Pitt, are both Inhabitants of this State, & will have every Inducement & Motive to exert themselves to the utmost. But we are farther to acquaint you, that these are only Parts of the System; for it is fully determined to penetrate into the Indian Country, & by a seasonable, vigorous Stroke make them feel the Weight of the American Arms. Measures are taking for this Purpose; but you will see the evident Propriety of Silence on this Subject, & we may venture to assure you that it has every Appearance of being successful & decisive.

We have now only to add, that feeling as we do most sincerely for your calamitous Situation, no Attention Care, or Consideration shall be wanting, to relieve it as soon as possible; and that as far as we are enabled by the Assembly in the necessary supplies, we shall do every Thing in our Power, for your comfort & Protection. We have it under Deliberation to offer a Reward for Indian Scalps; but it involves in it some Considerations of a political Nature affecting the general System of the War with Great Britain; however, if it will answer an effectual Purpose beneficial to you, we shall not hesitate to do it. We would wish you to make the Contents of this Letter as generally known by sending Copies or otherwise as you can, & use your utmost Influence to prevail upon the Inhabitants not to abandon their Habitations when there is such a Prospect of Support.

I am, Sir,

Your Obed. Hbble. S.,

J. R., Presid.

1779, March 27th. To the Lieutenants of Bedford, Westmoreland and Northumberland, & to Bri^r James Potter & Hon. Thos. Scott & others.

RESOLUTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1779.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania,
Monday, March 29, 1779.

The following Resolution from the Honourable the Congress was received and read and ordered to be inserted in the Minutes.

In Congress, March 20, 1779.

Resolved, That a Sum not exceeding two Millions of Dollars be granted on Loan to the State of Pennsylvania, at Six ^{per} cent ^{per} annum, agreeable to the request of the said State, and that the Board of Treasury prepare and report a proper Resolution on the Subject.

Extract from the minutes,

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Extract from Minutes of Gen^l Ass'y,

JOHN MORRIS, Jr.,

Clk of Gen^l Ass'y.

PRES'T REED TO MONS. GERARD, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, March 29th 1779.

Sir,

I am very sorry to trouble you with any Representations which may give you a moment's Concern. But when Persons so far forget themselves as not only to violate the Laws of the Country from which during their Residence they derive Protection, & to which they consequently owe Respect & Obedience, but those Laws of Honour & Propriety which are every where binding, I think it a Duty I owe you & the other Gentlemen of the Nation to enable you to make proper Distinctions. And as the Parties have forfeited all Claim to that favourable & respectable Notice to which the Subjects of France will ever be entitled here, to acquaint you that the civil Magistrate has received Directions to put the Laws fully into Execution.

I have the Honour to be, with great Regard, & very sincere Wishes for your better Health,

Sir, Your most Obed.

& Very Hbbl. Serv.

PRES'T REED TO PRES'T OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Council;

Philada., March 29th, 1779.

Sir,

By a Certificate signed by Benj. Paschal, Esq., One of the Justices of the Peace in this City, it appears that Affidavits have been taken before him by Messrs. Clarkson & Franks, in one or both of which are some particulars respecting me. These Affidavits I am well informed are now before Congress, and the Deponents are about going to Carolina. As there was not the least Notice of the taking them, & they are now made a publick Use of, I must request you will direct the Secretary to furnish me with Copies, or permit me to see in what manner I am affected by them.

By the Desire of Council I am also to acquaint you that the above two Gentlemen are considered by this Board as material Witnesses in the Complaint agt Major Gen. Arnold, if your Hon. Body shall order a Tryal thereupon. We rely therefore fully upon the Wisdom & Justice of Congress to adopt such Measures for procuring their Testimony as are within their Power, & as they shall deem conducive to the Investigation of Truth & Advancement of Justice.

I have the Honour to be, Sir,

Your most obed. Hbbl. Ser.

Indorsed,

To His Excellency John Jay, Esq.

PRESIDENT REED TO COL. PROCTOR, 1779.

Council Chamber, March 29, 1779.

Sir,

Pursuant to the Directions you communicated this Morning from the Board of War to receive an Arrangement from me of the Defence of the River. You will please to detach from your Regiment 30 Men, properly officered to take Post at Billingsport—a like Detachment of 20 men to Mud Island. The Troops will occupy the Barracks at each Place, the Workmen at Mud Island giving their Room to the Troops, unless by mutual agreement Room can be made also for the Workmen who are employed in Work tending to the accommodation of the Troops. When the Garrisons have taken Possession of their respective Posts the command^r Officers will pay a particular attention to inward bound Vessels, & none be suffered to pass Billingsport without satisfaction to the Officer there commanding of their friendly Intentions, & then to pass by Mud Island on a signal

given from Billingsport, as directed by you, & made Known to the respective Officers. You will recommend to them not to give any unnecessary Delay, & to treat the Vessels, whether Americans or Allies, with Respect & Kindness. As the Accomodations are not so good as could be wish'd at present, it may be proper to relieve once a Week or Fort-night, as will be most agreeable to the Troops. It is expected that 4 more pieces of Cannon are, or will be soon sent to Billingsport with suitable ammunition, & two to Mud Island, but I shall be much obliged to you or the Field Officer who may go down with the Men, to report to me, as soon as convenient, what Provision there is for Defence as well as the comfort of the Men, & what will be farther necessary—and so from Time to time as Occasions may require.

You will also direct the Officer commands at each Place to give me the earliest notice of every Occurrence of Consequence, & be assured that I shall pay a particular attention to the Corps on this as well as every other Occasion.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. & very
Hbbl. Serv.

Directed,

To Colonel Tho^r Proctor.

SEC^y T. MATLACK TO COL. JOHN BROWN, 1779.

Philadelphia, March 29, 1779.

Sir,

Having lately taken the liberty, under the signature of T. G., to use a publication signed by you, I now beg leave to enclose to you the proceedings of the Council of Pennsylvania in a case relating to the conduct of Major General Arnold. Every day turns up something new relating to the course of this Phenomenon: and I shall send you the further proceedings in his case as soon as they are closed, as it is probable they will produce important consequences one way or another. I am, altho a stranger to your person, with great respect,

Your very humble servant,

T. M. Sec^y.

Directed,

To Lieut Col^l John Brown at Pittsfield in Connecticut.

BRIG. GENL. DUPORTAIL TO PRES'T REED, 1779,

Philadelphia, 29 march, 1779.

Sir,

I will be much obliged to your excellency to let me Know as soon as possible the resolution of the Council about this matter—if they are pleased to let me execute the orders of general washington, and have the means necessary or not; in the latter Case I will be glad to have their Refusal in writing for my discharge.

I have the honour to be with the greatest Respect,
of your excellency the most obedient
and very humble servant,

LE CH^e DUPORTAIL.

Directed,

To his excellency general Reed.

JOHN READ TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To His Excellency the President The Honourable Vice President & Hon^e the Members of the Executive Council of the Common Welth of Pennsylvania.

The Memorial of John Read, Barrack Master, Humbly presents—

That there is due to your Memorialist a considerable number of Rations by Will^m Crispin, Esq^r Commissary of Provisions, sence the Evacuation of Fort Mifflin untill the 16th of August last which said Crispin refuses to Issue unless an order can be obtained from the Executive Council for that purpose, as the order he received from the Board of Warr, and State Navy Board he has either lost or mislaid.

That your Memorialist has constantly attended his duty as Barrack Master from the Evacuation of Fort Mifflin to the 16th of August, as aforesaid, until he was ordered by Col. Melcher, Barrack Master General, to close his transactions as a State Barrack Master.

Your Memorialist Prays that he may be reinstated as Barrack Master in said State, haveng been appointed as such by the Comitty of safety, as will appear by his Instructions attending the Memorial, besides the several departments set forth in said Instructions, he had the care of the Banks on Fort Island, untill Ordered

by the Board of warr to employ the Ditchers and Labourers under his directions to work at the several Fortifications then on Hand until the approach of the Enemy, the loss sustained & my long services will I trust recommend me to the Indulgence of those requests, and as in duty bound will ever Pray.

JNO. READ.

29 March, 1779.

COL. LEWIS FARMER TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Philada. March 29th, 1779.

To the Honourable the Supreme Executive Council.
Gentlemen!

The Goods I Bought for the use of the Troops of this State amount to £25000, about eight hundred Dollars Called in Emissions are in my hands.

Would pray your honours would be pleased to supply me with money to Discharge the Debts as the People of whom I Bought begin to be uneasy, been kept out of their Money so long, Some abuse me on acct of it.

I am Gentlemen your
very humble Servant,
LEWIS FARMER.*

REV. WM. ROGERS TO PRES. REED, 1779

Phila., March 29, 79.

May it please your Excellency,

Council having granted my Petition Respecting Cloathing I flatter myself they will extend unto me while on Duty in this Garrison the Privilege of Drawing those Articles mentioned in the late Resolves of Assembly for the support & comfort of their officers—I have conferr'd with Col. Proctor on the subject, he says that if your Honble Board signify their approbation he will Return me to Col. Farmer with his officers so that the whole may be Issued together & the Person authorised to Receive for them may at the same time Receive for me that the Trouble may be but one—I shall in the Course of a Day or

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 728.

Two furnish your Excellency with a Certificate of my being as Brigade Chaplain in the Penna^a Line ordered to attend Duty in this Garrison—Hoping that Council may grant my Request—I conclude by wishing that every Possible Blessing may be the Portion of the Supreme Authority of this State and that your Excellency may live to see many happy Days.

W. ROGERS, B. Chaplain.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, Presid^t of the Supreme Executive Council.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 30 March, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honor of transmitting to your Excellency herewith enclosed, two copies of an act of Congress of the 29th Inst, on the subject of a Conference with the assembly and executive Council of Pennsylvania.

I am with great

Respect, your Excellencys

most obed^t Servant,

JOHN JAY, Presid^t.

P. S. Copies of the Depositions of Majors Clarkson & Franks are also enclosed.*

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

PRES. REED TO C. J. THOMAS MCKEAN, 1779.

In Council,

Philada., March 30, 1779.

Sir,

During my late Indisposition an intercepted Letter was sent me from Gen. Maxwell, signed Sam. R. Fisher, which appearing of a criminal Nature was laid before you, for your Consideration & that you should take such order therein as publick Justice might direct. Having heard nothing in answer I must request you to acquaint the

* Not found.

Beard what is done, or whether any thing can be done in this affair for the Punishm^t & Prevention of such practices.

I am Sir, with due

Respect & Regard your

most obed. Hbbl Serv^t,

J. R., Pres^t.*

Directed,

Hable Tho^r M^cKean, Esq., Chief Justice &c.

COUNCIL TO J. D. SERGEANT, 1779.

Philadelphia, March 30, 1779.

Sir,

The Council request, that you will enquire of Mr. Shewell what, or whether any evidence he can give respecting the property of Gen. Arnold in the Charming Nancy and the time when he became interested, and particularly whether the General had any property in her at the time he gave the Passport &c.—If you find he can give any evidence herein the Council desire you will take his deposition, giving notice to the General, and let me have it before four o'clock to morrow afternoon, at which time the Conference is appointed to be held in the Assembly room.

I am with great respect,

your very humble Servant,

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

(Copy)

Directed,

J. D. Sergeant, Esq^r.

PRESIDENT REED TO LIEUTENANTS, &c., 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a. March 30th 1779.

Sir,

The unhappy State of our Frontiers which have been already struck and are threatened with further Ravages by the Indians & Tories, demands our utmost Exertion and Attention. We have the fairest Prospects that in the Course of the Summer the Savages will

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 729, and page 279 of this volume.

receive such effectual Chastisement as will once more restore Peace & Comfort to that distressed Country. Some of the Continental Troops will be sent forward, & it is concluded to raise 5 Companies of Rangers. But in the mean Time Protection is necessary, which can only be given by the Militia. We therefore direct you that immediately upon the Receipt of this, you call upon the Battallions of the post, in the Tour of Duty, for Men, if the Number cannot be furnished by one Class, the Militia Law is to be strictly pursued, the Delinquents fined & so proceed to the next Class, as many bad Consequences have ensued from a different Course; if one Class does not furnish the Men required, you will proceed to the next, & so on, till the Number is complete. When they are thus furnished you are to see them equipp'd, in the best Manner that Circumstances will admit, & direct them to be march'd to where the County Lieutenant will muster them, and from him they will receive Directions where to take their Station for the Defence & Protection of our distressed Brethren on the Frontiers. The Plan of the Enemy is now to distress us on the Coast & Frontiers, in order probably to effect by their Cruelty & Barbarity, what they cannot by the force of Arms, and as this will probably be the last Effort we hope if vigorously & effectually defeated, Peace will soon be established, on honourable Terms. Our Expectations of a Visit from the Enemy, from New York, are too well grounded to leave any Preparation unmade for our Defence, & furnish an unanswerable & we hope satisfactory Reason against detaching from the Militia of the Counties bordering on the Sea, and indeed if we do from their Ignorance of the Woods & the Mode of Fighting they would probably only consume the Provisions of the Country without affording any useful or effectual aid.

The Counties laying between being in entire safety from these Attacks, will we trust cheerfully step forth, & on our Parts we shall endeavour that every Thing necessary be provided. The great Destruction & Waste of Arms by the Enemy as well as otherwise, will make it absolutely necessary, that the most diligent search be made, & that every one possessed of Arms make Use of them as a supply cannot be obtained from this.

We trust from the Zeal & Alacrity you have shown, you will exert your whole Weight Influence & Care in doing the Business effectually.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. & Very

Hbble Ser.

Indorsed,

To the Lieut^s of York, Camb^d & Lancaster Co^s.

PETITION OF WM. RUSH, 1779.

To the Honourable the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The petition of William Rush,

Who begs leave to inform your Honours that being pressed earnestly to do some work for the Gallies, y^e Fort & some Carriages, which if not done would injure y^e publick service, which kept me in the City till a day or two before y^e enemy came into it, & then for want of craft or carriages which was not to be had, I was obliged to leave my effects behind me, which the enemy upon coming into the City immediately took possession of, among which was a quantity of barr iron, which, & as I have lately been inform'd, was made into hinges & other work for y^e gates & redouts that y^e enemy set up about the City—

What I would therefore request of your Honours is, if upon proof of what I have above related you should be of opinion that the iron made use of is my property, you will please to give me liberty to take it, or if made use of for y^e publick, that I may be allowed pay for it.

And your petitioner as in duty bound, &c.

March 30th, 1779.

CERTIFICATE OF REV. WM. ROGERS, 1779.

This is to Certify that the Rev. Wm. Rogers, Brigade Chaplain in the Penns^a Line, was about the Middle of Last December authoriz'd by his Excellency, Gen^l Washington, to attend Duty in this Garrison till further Orders; In Consequence whereof a General Order Respecting the same was issued to the Garrison.

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

MONS. GERARD TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

A Philadelphie, le 31 Mars, 1779.

Monsieur,

Le Roi mon Maître est trop juste pour ne pas vouloir que ses Sujets qui se trouvent dans les treize Etats Unis se soumettent aux loix du Pays. Sa Majesté m'a même chargé de concourir à les leur faire observer autant qu'il dependroit de moi et Elle a menacé de son indignation quiconque les auroit violé.

Je ne puis donc qu'applaudir, Monsieur, aux mesures que vous m'annoncez que le Conseil auquel vous presides est resolu de prendre pour vanger la violation des loix et du respect du à ses Ministres dont vous me parlez. Je vous prie de recevoir mes remerciemens de votre attention.

Je veux, Monsieur, vous donner une nouvelle preuve de mon zele et de mon exactitude sur cet objet en vous faisant part de l'avis que je viens de recevoir, que M^r de Loyanté et de Noirmont doivent se battre ce Soir. Il n'y a pas un moment à perdre pour prevenir cette nouvelle catastrophe.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec un respectueux attachement, .

Monsieur,

Votre très humble et très
obéissant serviteur,

GERARD.

M^r le Gnal Reed, President du Conseil de Pensylvanie.

RESOLUTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1779.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania,

Wednesday, March 31st, 1779.

On Motion,

Resolved,

That the President and Council be, and they are hereby empowered, to hire or Charter one or more Ships or other armed Vessels, to cruize for the Protection of Trade, in Consort with the Ship General Green or otherwise, as they shall think most adviseable; and to draw upon the Treasurer for such Sums as may be necessary for the above purpose, which draughts the Treasurer is hereby required to pay.

Extract from the Minutes,

JOHN MORRIS, Jun.,

Clerk of the Gen. Ass'y.

C. J. MCKEAN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

I had the Honor of a Letter from the Council of the 30th instant,* respecting an intercepted Letter from Samuel R. Fisher to Jabez Maud Fisher at New York. As the affair was in agitation at the time I received your favor, I thought it best to defer an answer until it was finished. I have committed Samuel R. Fisher to answer for his conduct, he gave me a great deal of trouble in the Enquiry, by refusing to give any answer, whether it was his hand-writing or not, &c., until I had summoned several witnesses to prove it; he then confessed it, and relied on the innocence of his intentions.

I spent some hours in endeavouring to persuade him to enter into a recognizance in £500, for his appearance at the City court; but tho' Mr. Andrew Dox offered to join in one with him he absolutely & positively refused: He was accompanied for part of the time by his brother Miers Fisher, and the whole time by three Quakers, who I understood were a Committee of the yearly meeting. This Committee, or either of them, tho' importuned me, did not give him one word of Advice to enter into a recognizance. They told me that many friends had scruples of conscience about giving Bail to answer to charges of which they thought themselves innocent. Whether Mr. Fisher's conduct was owing to Enthusiasm, Obstinacy, Contempt or Ignorance, in refusing to enter into a recognizance, is unnecessary to be determined, but he pleaded Conscience.

I am Sir, with the utmost
regard the Council's and
your Excellency's Most
obedient humble servant,
THO. MCKEAN.

Philadelphia, March 31st, 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President &c., of Pennsylvania.

PRES. REED TO BRIG. GEN. DU PORTAIL, 1779.

March 31st, 1779.

Sir,

I here inclose you the Resolutions of the Council with Respect to your Business. And as I have ever entertained a very particular Esteem & Respect for your Character & Abilities, I have endeavoured to impress like sentiments upon those Gentlemen in Authority who

* See page 274.

have not had the like Pleasure of your acquaintance—& I doubt not but you will pay a due Respect to the Wishes of the Council as expressed in the Resolves.

I am Sir with much

Respect & Regard,

your most obed. &

very Hbbl Serv't.

Directed,

Brig. Gen. D. Portail.

COL. SMITH TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

After I left the Board, I Met with Lieut. Daniel Darrogh, that I am well Acquainted with; he serv'd in the Ninth Pens^a Reg't, is Spirited and Brave; last Summer was left out in the Arrangement—he has Agreed to serve as a 1st Lieut, if it is agreeable to Council to appoint him in the Comp'y to Be Rais'd in Lancaster County, I have not the least Doubt he will ans^r the Good purposes Intended.

I am, with Great Esteem, your Most ob^t

& Very Humble Serv't,

MATTH'W SMITH.

Phila., Thursday, 4 O'Clock, }
 Aprils 1st, 1779. }

Directed,

His Excelancy, Joseph Reed, Esqr., Phila.

GEN. DU PORTAIL TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

I have received your Excellency's Letter, with the annexed resolve of Council. Sensible of the Confidence with which they are pleased to honor me, I shall endeavour to deserve it by conforming to their intentions with a Scrupulous Exactness.

I acknowledge with thanks, Sir, the advantageous opinion Your Excellency is pleased to Entertain and to give of me. I shall strive to prove worthy of it, & to answer the Expectations of your Excellency & the Hon'ble Council; infinitely Satisfied to find in Serving

the United States, an opportunity of being useful to that of Pennsylvania in particular.

I have the honor to be

With great respect, Sir,

Your Excellency's Most obedient

& very humble Serv^t,

LE CHEV. DUPORTAIL.*

Philadelphia, April 7th 1st, 1779.

His Excellency the Presid. of the State of Penna^a.

PRES. REED TO McCLENACHAN & IRWIN, 1779.

In Council,

Philada., April 1st, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Pursuant to a Resolution of the Hon^o House of Ass^y passed yesterday, this Board have concluded to charter the Cutter Revenge for 3 Months, to cruize in Concert with the Gen^l Green, for which purpose we authorize you to apply to the Owners of the s^d Vessel & know upon what Terms she can be had, stating the same to us in writing as fully as you can, with your own opinion thereupon.

In a former Letter you mentioned 100 Dollars as a Bounty to be given to each able bodied Seaman; if this Encouragement is sufficient, you will proceed upon it, but as we think this cannot be your Meaning, we request you state clearly a Plan of Terms to be offered, including the Pay, the Prize Money, & other usual Allowances, & if any Measures are necessary for the manning the s^d Vessels, you will point them out, as we are resolved that no private Interest shall Stand in Competition with the publick on this Occasion.

We shall consider the Recommendation of Officers, & conclude thereon tomorrow; but by a Resolution both of Congress and the State, Officers of the Army who have been Prisoners or discharged as merely supernumerary, are entitled to a Preference of any others in such Service as they are capable of. This is a Resolution to which we must desire your Attention in the Recommendation of the Officers of Marinea.

Your Application for Money will be duly attended to, but it is usual in such Applications to state the Sum requested, and as the Treasury is at present in a low state, we must request you to be as moderate as possible in your Demands.

I am, Gen.,

Your Obed. H^{ble} Serv.

* Referred to in Col. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 732.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

Council Chamber,

April 2, 1779.

Gentlemen,

I was yesterday at the Park, & find 4 Pieces of Cannon have been sent down the River. I could wish that two more may be sent, with a couple of Mortars, one for Billingsport & the other for Mud Island, if they could be spared. They are much more formidable to Ships who must lay exposed to them than Cannon, as one successful shell destroys the ship. There are two or 3 at the Park, which Capt. Joy informs me can be spared, and should you want them they can easily be returned. Their Marks & Devices will always show to whom they belong.

I have been well informed that there is a great Number of Rifles at Carlisle, that want Repair of different Kinds. It is proposed to arm the Rangers to be raised for the defence of the Frontiers with Rifles, and as these kind of Arms are not in the same Vogue they were formerly in our own Army, it would, I apprehend, be no Inconvenience to any other Service to apply them to this; for this we have given all possible Encouragement to the Recruits to bring their own Arms; the People of that County were so stripped in 1775 & 1776 for the Continental Army, that they are very destitute. I would request that you would give directions to the proper Persons there immediately to repair them, or, if more agreeable, deliver them in their present Condition, to a Person appointed by us, & we will take the Trouble of repairing them off your hands.

As the raising these Troops will necessarily be a work of Time, & it will be utterly improper to leave the Inhabitants, especially of Westmoreland & Bedford, destitute of Protection in the mean Time, I have ordered 250 Militia from York, Cumberland & Lancaster, to march up immediately, & must beg you will give the necessary Directions to the Commissary to supply them with Provisions; as fast as the Troops are raised these Militia will be withdrawn, and as they are instead of these Troops, I hope there will be no Objection to feeding them till they are relieved.

I received a few Lines from Gen. Washington yesterday, tending to remove in part the Impressions his former Letter might have made; the Enemy have given over their Expedition, or at least they so give out, on acct of the snow Storm. But there is reason to believe the Preparations made to receive them had some Effect.

I am, with due respect,

Your most obedient & humble Ser^t.Hⁿble Board of War.

PRES. REED TO COL. ZEBULON BUTLER, 1779.

Council Chamber,

April 2, 1779.

Sir,

The Board of War delivered me a Copy of your Letter to them respecting the late Attack & Depredations on the Frontiers. It gives me great satisfaction to find so vigorous & spirited an Exertion on the Occasion, & as all other Considerations yield to those of common Safety & Defence, I hope no Disputes & Differences will arise between the Settlers under the different Claims, but perfect Union & Harmony prevail, so as to enable both to exert their joint strength to repel the common Enemy. I have the satisfaction of assuring you that the State of the frontier Settlements is regarded here with that attention which their Services & Sufferings most justly demand. I lately went to the Camp on purpose to confer with the Commander in Chief on this important Subject, & have the Pleasure of assuring you that he is fully impressed with a like sense of your Danger & Merit, & that the most effectual Measures are in Train, not merely to protect & defend, but to make the Savages & the more Savage Christians among them, feel the Weight of the American Arms. Before this reaches you, I hope you have rec^d a Reinforcement from Genl. Hand, & that in Case of any future attempt, you will not only be able to repel but to chastise & disappoint it effectually. I would wish you to give all possible Encouragement to the apprehensive Settlers to stand their Ground, as they will undoubtedly be supported, & believe that laying aside all Distinctions here but those of Friends & Enemies to the American Cause of Freedom & Virtue, we are resolved to do every Thing in our Power to give Effectual Support & Protection.

I shall be glad at all Times to hear from you on affairs of a publick Nature, & most readily return the Civility as well as render you any particular Service.

I am, Sir,

Your most obed. & very

Hbbl. Serv.,

JOS. REED.

RESOLUTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1779.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania,

Friday, April 2d, 1779.

The Petition signed by John Hazelwood in behalf of himself and others officers of the State Navy, was read a second time and thereupon,

Resolved,

That it be referred to the Supreme Executive Council.

Extract from the minutes,

JOHN MORRIS, jr.,

Clk of Gen. Ass'y.*

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, Ap'l 2d, 1779.

Sir,

The Bearer is the Express who came from Wioming with the Dispatches from Col Butler. Should your Excellency have Letters to send on the subject he will carry them if you think proper. As the conduct of the British on the Frontiers is out of the Hands of the Board, we can take no steps in the Matter.

I have the Honor to

be with great respect,

your very obed. Serv't,

RICHARD PETERS,

In Behalf of the Board.

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 783.

McCLENACHAN & IRWIN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philad. 2d April, 1779.

Sir,

Your Excellency's fav^r of yesterday we duly received agreeable to your orders we waited upon the owners of the Cutter, their terms are as follows—

1. Capt. Cunningham shall be continued in the command of her, and the officers whom he has appointed shall hold their respective stations on board. It is said and we believe, Capt. Cunningham knows better how to manage such a vessell than any other Person here and there is no doubt of his Bravery.

2. The State shall Insure the Cutter at the price she cost the present owners.

3. The State shall return the Cutter in as good condition as they receive her, or pay as much as three Judges now appointed, shall adjudge adequate to the damage she may sustain.

4. The State shall pay the owners of the Cutter at the rate of Ten thousand pounds £ month while in the State service.

These are the lowest terms of the owners, and tho' they are higher than we could wish, yet we are fully convinced your Excellency will be serving the State by chartering her at this rate, and we do assure you, that we would not hesitate in taking her on our private acc^t on those terms, as this is much the best Season for Cruizing.

Should you conclude to take her, we think we can man both her and the ship, by giving the Crew's three fourths of all Commissioned Vessells, and one half of Letters of marque & merchantmen unarmed therefore recommend to you, not to give a larger share of the Prize money to the Crew's, and we have not the least doubt but the States share of prize money will more than doubly repay all expences &c. We recommend it to your Excellency to give the officers & men the customary monthly Wages lately given by the State.

It will be necessary to advance each able Boded Seaman one hundred Dollars, and Landsmen Fifty Doll^r or more if we should find a larger sum needful, in order to induce them to enter, this advance money to be hereafter deducted from their Wages or Prize money.

If you dont take the Cutter would advise your giving the crew of the Ship the whole of all Kings Vessells and Privateers, and one half of Letters of marque & unarm'd Vessells, by which encouragement the State Ship will get maned before the Cutter, or any other Private Vessell, and it may probably induce them to make a better Battle than they w^od do for a smaller share.

But if you send the Vessells in consort (as we before mention) we would not give the Crew's more than three fourths the Commissioned Vessells, and one half of Letters of marque & unarmed Vessells.

When we meet with a supernumery officer who will accept of the Command of the marines, and qualified for the office, shall take the liberty of recommend'g him, Mr. Patterson has been in the service of the Continent from the first of the War till lately when a dispute about Rank caused him to resign.

Shall be glad how soon you determine about the Cutter, and also upon the Terms on which we are to engage the men, as sailors never look upon themselves bound till they sign articles, which we want printed with all possible expedition.

Request you will give us an order on Mr Styles for such military Stores as we may want from him.

We are your Excellency's
most obed. humble Serv^t.

BLAIR M-CLENACHAN.
MATT'W IRWIN.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, Ap'l 3, 1779.

Sir,

The Reason of mentioning the Want of Ammunition at Wioming to you was that as your Excellency had lately been at camp, & conferred with the General on the Defence of the Frontiers as we understood, it was thought you were acquainted with the Plan formed for the supply of the Posts both with Ammunition & other Articles, & if the General had taken order in the Matter our doing it would be unnecessary. We have ordered five thousand Cartridges to be sent from Easton where we have about double that Number. Some permanent System should be established for the Supply of the Posts Perhaps the General has done it, but we are unacquainted with it.

I am Sir with great

Respect your obed. Serv^t

RICHARD PETERS.

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

(Private)

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, Saturday Morn'g, April 3d, 1779.

Sir,

The Bearer mentioned that Col. Butler desired him to inform that he had but a very short Supply of Ammunition. If you will be pleased to make a Requisition for a Quantity it may be delivered to the order of Council from our Magazine at Lebanon.

Your very obed. Serv^t,

R. PETERS.

Directed.

His Excellency President Reed.

P. GREENWALT TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Lebanon; April 3d, 1779.

Sir,

In Compliance with the Orders from the Honorable the Supr^e Ex^t Council of this State I beg leave to Acquaint you, That I am not Possessed of any Inventarys or returns of Forfeited Estates there being no Body in my district comeing under the Act, Save Mr. Mat^r M. Hugh, who managed so politically that nothing could be done with his goods, they being Owned by others.

I am Sr with

great respect,

your Hum. Serv^t,

P. GREENWALT.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esq., Register.

Fav^d Bearer.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress,

Philadelphia, April 3, 1779.

Resolved,

That unanimity and harmony between the Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled and each state individually, has been, under God, the happy means of our past success, and the only

sure foundation whereon to rest our future hopes of terminating the contest with Great Britain with honour and advantage.

Resolved,

That Congress is highly sensible of the importance and services of the state of Pennsylvania in the present contest, and regard with sincere concern and regret every event which may tend to lessen the mutual confidence and affection which has hitherto subsisted.

Resolved,

That it is the full intention of Congress, on all occasions, to manifest a just and equal attention to the said state and authority of Pennsylvania as of any other state in the union.

Resolved,

That any disrespectful and indecent behaviour of any officer of any rank under the appointment of Congress, to the civil authority of any state in the Union will be discountenanced, and that a contrary behaviour will be considered as one of the first means to recommend any officer to the favour and notice of Congress.

Resolved,

That His Excellency, Joseph Reed's, letter to Congress of the 25 of January, 1779, and General Arnold's letters of 8th & 12th of February, and the resolves therein contained of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania, be, with the evidence which have been collected and reported by the Committee on those letters transmitted to the Commander in Chief, and that he be directed to appoint a Court Martial on the first, second, third and fifth articles contained in the said resolves of the said Executive Council—the said articles only being cognizable by a Court Martial, and that the reference be notified to the Supreme Executive Council, and they be requested to furnish the evidence to the Court Martial.*

Extract from the Minutes.

CHAS. THOMPSON, Sec'y.

PRES'T. REED TO McCLENACHAN & IRWIN, 1779.

In Council,

Philada., April 3d, 1779.

Gentlemen,

We have just received your Favour. The terms appear high, and as we are acting for the publick we would wish you take the Sentiments in writing of two or three other disinterested Merchants on the Monthly hire, as we would wish to do Justice both publick and private.

* See letter of Pres't. Jay, April 13, postea.

Capt. Conyngham & his officers continuing in Command, is acceptable to us, provided Rank & Command between them & those of the ship be duly ascertained.

The Insurance at an appraised value we think most reasonable. Other Reasons besides a just Value might have induced the owners to purchase, & we do not consider our own people bidding against the State by any Means a Reason to justify a great Demand—if it is Reasonable to ask the Price bid the Appraisers will say so. The 8d Article should have the Amend^t that s^e shall be returned in as good Condition as taken, the usual Wear & Tear excepted. Damages from a storm or an Engagement will be excepted, of Course.

We would wish you to draw up the Articles in Turn on the Terms proposed, & get them printed with all Expedition, as we suppose the Matter may be entirely settled with the owners of the Cutter, one way or another, immediately, & the Articles drawn.

If the Gentlemen who own the Cutter reject these Propositions we would wish it might be done in writing.

I am, Gent., Your obed't H'ble Serv't.

PRESIDENT REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

Sir,

I have just received your Favour of this Morning. It is, to be sure, of the last Importance that Col. Butler & his Troops should be supplied with ammunition, but as he is a Continental officer he is doubtless entitled to a supply from the United States. If the Inhabitants of the Frontier Counties are in want we shall gladly accept your Offer, but unless Col. Butler's Letter speaks of it we do not know of any particular Call.

I am, Sir, Your obed't H'ble Serv't,

JOS. REED.

Council Chamber, April 3d, 1779.

SECRETARY MATLACK TO JAMES READ, &c., 1779.

Philadelphia, April 3, 1779.

Sir,

The Council direct me to request your attendance in Council, there being now only five members in the city, and Mr. Hambright, one of the five, being unwell, has not attended this day, which has prevented a quorum being made. You see the necessity there is for

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this request, which is made to you and Mr. Arndt, and the Council hope that you will both attend.

The news which is passing, being very wild and uncertain, I shall not trouble you with it—but, upon the whole, the Whigs are gaining ground.

I am, with great respect,
Your most obedient &
Very humble servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

To H'nble James Read, &c.

COUNCIL TO COL. THOMAS PROCTOR, 1779.

Philad^a, April 4, 1779.

Sir,

By order of His Excellency the President, I enclose you an order from the Board of War to deliver two pieces of iron cannon and two Howitz, which His Excellency desires you will receive and place on the fortifications at Mud island and Billingsport, as you shall see occasion.* The Cannon to be twenty four pounders, and the Howitz to be the largest size you can obtain. You will report to the Council your receipt of them, and the situations in which you place them. The Council are of opinion, with the Board of War, that one Howitz at each of the two places will be most proper.

I am, Sir,
your very humble servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

You will of course receive a proper supply of ammunition.

T. M.

Directed,

To Col^d. Tho^s Proctor, of the Artillery.

* See page 298.

INSTRUCTIONS TO SHERIFF CLAYPOOLE, 1779.

Philadelphia, April 4, 1779.

Sir,

The Chief Justice has informed the Council that he had committed Samuel R. Fisher to Goal on a charge of Misprision of Treason, and the Council are surprised to receive information that he is not in confinement. They direct me to inform you that it is their express order, that you do immediately confine the s^d S. R. Fisher in the common Goal according to the commitment delivered to you, and according to your duty in such case, until he give the usual security for his appearance, &c., or until you shall receive further order from the s^d Chief Justice in the premises.

I am, &c.,

T. M., Sec'y.*

*Directed,*To James Claypoole, Esq^r, Sheriff of the city & county of Philad^a.

GENL. ST. CLAIR TO PRES'T REED, 1779.

Millstone, April 4th, 1779.

Sir,

In your favour of the 24th ult^o, you mention that Colonel Proctors Regiment and the Officers and Men of the Gallies are put upon the Line of the State, and entitled to the same supplies as the other Troops. This will increase the Demand for the Articles with which they are to be furnished, and consequently makes Economy in the distribution more necessary—indeed I believe it will be very difficult to keep up a constant and regular supply. The Resolve of Council enumerates the Quantity and species which every Man may take weekly, in which I conceive I have no Power to make any Alteration, but as many of the soldiers may not chuse to take every Article, I directed that a return of the Names of the Men, and the respective Articles they chose to be furnished with, in the stated proportions, should be made out weekly and signed by the commanding officers of Regiments, and that the Quarter Masters should thereupon apply to M^r Zeigler for the whole Quantity for the Regiment, giving a Receipt upon the Return, and that the Pay Masters should stop from the Regiments monthly the value of the Articles received, taking a Receipt from M^r Zeigler upon the same Re-

* See Col. Rec, Vol. XI., p. 785.

turns, which should become vouchers for that Debursement; and as they had every Mans Name in the Return it was easiest Mode for both that I could think of. If the Supplies are like to fall short, it would perhaps be well enough to lessen the Quantity of some Articles.

I have spoken to his Excellency about the uniform of Colonel Proctors Regiment. He has understood that the Officers of that Regiment have already, in a great measure, supplied themselves with blue, and for that Reason consents to it for this year, as he is unwilling to put them to the Expense of other Cloathing, but they must in future conform to the Colour of the Corps, let that be what it may.

I thank you very kindly for your attention to me. I will accept the Cask of Wine, and whilst we dedicate a part of it to the Genius of convivial Mirth, will not forget a grateful Libation to the Donor.

I am with great Respect and Esteem, Sir,
 your Excellencys most obedient
 and very humble Servant,
 A^r S^t CLAIR.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

War Office, April 4, 1779.

Sir,

We beg Leave to inform you that 12 or 13 Indian Chiefs of that Part of the Delaware Nation who have thro' the whole Course of our Affairs evidenced their Fidelity to the United States, are arrived & encamped on the Common to prevent their getting the Small Pox. They came on a visit to Congress, & perhaps may also visit the Commander in Chief. We have troubled you with this merely as a Piece of Information, that if Council choose to say any thing to them on Behalf of the State, they may have an Opportunity of doing it.

We are, Sir, very respectfully,
 your very obe^d Servants,
 RICHARD PETERS,
 By Order.

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the Council of Pennsylvania.
 (War Office.)

* See page 293.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress; 5th April, 1779.

Whereas, the duties of the Sub—or State cloathiers who are to be appointed according to the late regulations of the cloathiers department will be very unequal, the quota of the battallions of the several States differing;

Resolved, That each State determine and pay the salary proper for its cloathier, and that each State cloathier shall be allowed two rations & forage for one horse per day during the time he is in actual service with the army, and going to and returning from the same:

That the regimental cloathiers have an allowance of thirty dollars per month in addition to their present appointment:

That the cloathier general be authorized to employ one clerk, who shall receive the same allowance as the clerks of the Auditors of the Army.

Extract from the Minutes,*

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

GEN. WASHINGTON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Head Quarters, Middle Brook;

5th April, 1779.

Dear Sir,

Your fav^r of the 29th March reached me a few days ago. I cannot conceive from whence can arise the antipathy of Col^o Proctor and his Officers to the Uniform† adopted by all the other regiments of Artillery. In every Service, it is customary to distinguish Corps by a particular Uniform, and as Black and Red has been pitched upon for that of the American Continental Artillery, it is unreasonable in him to make any objections to it. As Blue and Red have hitherto been the Uniforms of his Regiment, I imagine the officers are, in general, provided with Cloathing of that kind for this Year, and it would therefore be inconvenient to make a change at present: But I would wish you to inform Col^o Proctor, that it is expected he will conform next year.

It is good policy to diversify our Uniform as much as possible, as thereby the demand for any particular colours, and of course the price is decreased. Blue Cloth is now higher priced than any other (except Scarlet & Buff) because such numbers prefer it.

By one of the Regulations for the establishment of the Corps of Engineers, they are strictly enjoined not to communicate their surveys or plans to any others, than such public Bodies as are proper

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 742.

† See page 292.

to be intrusted with them—the Commander in Chief—or commanding General under whom they may be acting. This, I imagine, will be a sufficient obligation upon Gen^l Du Portail without my giving him the hint you mention.

Mr. Tilghman will give you such information respecting Mr. Shewell.

as he recollects. I am, with great Esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your most ob^t Serv^t,

Gov. Reed.

G^o WASHINGTON.

COL. BENJ. FLOWER TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Phila^d, 5th April, 1779, 10 o' Clock Night.

Sir,

I am just favoured with yours containing the request of the Hon^l Council, relative to the Rifles to be delivered at Carlisle to for the Defence of the Frontiers, With which I have the pleasure of complying, as ^{per} inclosed Order—And am your obd^t

Huml. Serv^t,

BENJ. FLOWER,

Col. Ay., C. G. M. S.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esq^r, Sec'y to the Hon^l Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania. Present.

RESOLUTIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1779.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania;

Monday, April 5th, 1779.

A Memorial from Capt. Isaac Corin, setting forth that he had raised a Company of Artillery in this State; that he has been constantly employed in the Laboratory for fixing Ammunition for the Continental Army, &c., and praying that the said Company may be admitted to the Benefits and Advantages allowed to the other Troops of this State, was read and considered, and thereupon

Resolved, that the said Capt. Isaac Corin's Company of Artillery be Considered as part of the Quota of this State and receive all the Benefits and Advantages which our other Troops Are Intitled to, upon a Certificate being Obtained from the Board of War that this Common Wealth has Credit for said Company as a part of its Quota.

Extract from the Minutes,

JOHN MORRIS, Jr.,

Clk. of Gen. Ass^y.

RESOLUTIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1779.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania,

Monday, April 5th, 1779.

On motion,

Resolved, that the attention and Care of the Supreme Executive Council of this State in detecting public abuses are highly acceptable to this House and that they will support them in the due discharge of so necessary a duty.

Resolved, that the Executive Powers of Government have been administered to the entire satisfaction of this House and the general Content of the good People of this State, and that this House cheerfully give this Testimony of their approbation to His Excellency the President and the other Members of the Council as an earnest of their Resolution to support them in a continuance of the faithful and honorable discharge of their duty, and a mark of their perfect Confidence and Regard.

Extract from the minutes,

JOHN MORRIS, Jr.,

Clk of the Gen. Assembly.

COUNCIL TO REV'D JOHN ETTWEIN, 1779.

Philada., April 5, 1779.

Sir,

I must beg the favour of you to send by the first good opportunity half a pound of Common sized wafers, 500 for the Great seal and 500 or 1000 for the less seal of the State and I will pay you, or your order for them on demand.

I am with great

respect your Fr^d

& hm'ble Servant.

T. M., Sec'y.

Directed,

Rev'd John Ettwein, at Bethlehem.

COUNCIL TO COL. B. FLOWER, 1779.

Philada., April 5, 1779.

Sir,

The Council direct me to request you will please to send an order for the Rifles which the Board of War have in their letter handed to you by Col. Proctor, ordered to be delivered to arm the five companies now to be raised—You will please to leave a blank for the name to whom they are to be delivered, the appointment not being yet made. The house of Assembly adjourning this evening the members set homeward tomorrow. I must therefore beg you to forward to me the order by 11 o'Clock to morrow morning.

I am Sir, your

very hm'ble Servant,

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Directed,

To Col. Flower.

COUNCIL TO GEN. ROBERDEAU, 1779.

Philada., April 5th, 1779.

D^r Sir,

We have appointed Capt. Thomas Cluggage* to one of the Independent Companies, but we are at a Loss for Lieutenants, this Company to be raised in Bedford, if from your own Knowledge you could recommend either of the old Officers of his Company or either of the others we should be glad to hear from you.

I am Sir,

Directed,

To Gen. Roberdeau.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 740.

BARNARD DOUGHERTY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Having the Honor of being appointed last year in a Commission of Oyer and Terminer for the Tryal of Sundry Persons in the County of Bedford, the Court was held agreeable to the said Commission and adjourned to the middle of May next; the worthy Mr M^cClean of York attended, and indeed it was intirely owing to Superior abilities and attention that the same was conducted well.

Gen. Armstrong, and Mr. Hubly in all probability will not attend and in Case the Honorable Council do not think of superseding the Commission, and Mr. M^cClean shou'd not attend we shou'd be greatly embarrass'd, and in particular on acct of my being totally Ignorant of the Law. I do therefore request that if it is the will of Council the Court shou'd sit on the adjournmat, there may be such orders sent to that Gentleman urging the necessity of his going to Bedford, agreeable to adjournment, in order to hold the Court as it is absolutely necessary.

I am Sir, with all
due respect, your most
obed^t Hble Serv^t,

BARNARD DOUGHERTY.

Phila., April 6th, 1779.

Directed,

On public Business.

The Honorable Mr. Scott, Member of the Supreme Executive Council in Pennsylvania.

JOHN HUBLEY TO COUNCIL, 1779.

John Hubley of Lancaster begs leave to represent To His Excellency the President and Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

That under the directions of the late Council of Safety and the Supreme Executive Council He has built a Powder Magazine and Store House at Lancaster, for this State, which now are finished save the laying of about 3 or 4000 feet of Floor.

That the said Magazine & Store House have been and still are occupied for the benefit of the United States since the month of October, 1777.

That he has expended and accounted for all the monies put into his Hands for the building of the said Magazine & Store.

That there still remain some accounts against him for Timber Scantling and other materials and for Workmen's wages unpaid, the amount of which he does not exactly know but upon an Estimate is of Opinion may amount to about £800 for which he prays money may be put into his Hands to defray the same.

JOHN HUBLEY.

Philada., April 6th, 1779.

Indorsed.

Read in Council same day.

COL. THOS. PROCTOR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, April 6th, 1779.

Sir,

In Compliance with the order of your Excellency I have to inform you how far I have proceeded in disposing of the Cannon & Stores order'd to Billingsport and Fort Mifflin,* four of the 18 Pounders as first order'd down the river are mounted at Billingsport with one 18 Pounder & a 12 P^r that have been there for some time past, and receiv'd only part of the Stores Indented for said place they not being at this time prepared, the last order for placing two 24 pounders & one 8 Inch Howitzer at Fort Mifflin and one 8 Inch Howitzer at Billingsport, I have presented to the Commiss^{rs} of Millitary Stores with the Inclosed from the Board of War on saturday evening, and also the Inventory for amunition &c^a, this morning.

The two Howitzers go down this evening agreeable to your direction, the 24P^{rs} are not yet fit for service, but orders are Issued for their being speedily compleated. I will use every means in my power to get these things I have to Perform put in the best order & shall with pleasure acquaint you of what I might Conceive necessary to add for our defence.

I am your Excellencys

Obdt & most Hble Serv^t,

THO. PROCTOR, Col. P. A.

Directed,

His Excellency Jos. Reed, President of Council.

* See page 290.

GEN. ROBERDEAU TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philad., April 6th, 1779.

D^r Sir,

I am honored with your Excellencies favor in answer to which I can only inform of a Lieu^t Meens, whose first name I have forgot, who acquitted himself well and with great adroitness in an Escort of some prisoners I sent to Bedford Jail, in preventing a rescue, I think him worthy of a higher command from this circumstance, and from the whole of his behaviour, but do not know where he lives I suppose in Bedford County, but he is well known to Capt. Cluggage, as he was under his Command. I wait your Excellencys Commands as I have letters informing that the Inhabitants wait only my appearance intending then to Evacuate without I can give them encouragement from preparations making, to which I remain a Stranger, except as the single fact of the Resolve of Congress to raise five Companies.

I request to be honored with an Interview to lay some facts before you, respecting the Frontiers, and the Lead Works, now recommended to your patronage.

I am most sincerely

y^r Excellency's Mostob. & very hum. Serv^t,

DAN'L ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire President of Pennsylvania.

PRES. REED TO COL. JOHN WEITZEL, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, April 6th, 1779.

Sir,

It is represented to us that in Case of an Irruption by the Indians the necessary Means of Defence by the Militia may prove insufficient if the special Orders of this Board must first be procured. We therefore direct & authorize you to give such Orders to the Sub Lieutenants & other inferior Officers, that in Case of small Parties of the Savages disturbing the Frontiers, suitable Parties of Militia may be drawn out to oppose them, without waiting for the particular Orders of Council or yourself. The Emergency must direct the Measure, both in its Manner & Extent, and as it is to be done only

in Case of Mischief done by the Indians, we hope there can be no Abuses of the Law. This, therefore, being a general Order to you, adapted to that Case, you will give your Orders conformably, & we shall take Care that the proper Means be taken for the Payment of the Men, as in other Cases.

I am, Sir,

Your Obed. Hbbl. Ser^t,

JOS. REED.

To Col^d John Weitzel.

PRES. REED TO RECRUITING OFFICERS, 1779.

In Council,

Philada., April 7th, 1779.

Sir,

Pursuant to a Resolve of Congress, five Companies of Rangers are to be raised for the Defence of the frontiers, to continue in service 9 months, Council having a favourable opinion of your merit & Abilities, have appointed you of one of the s^d Companies.

We herewith inclose a Copy of the recruiting Instructions, from which you will see upon what Terms the Men are to be raised, & what Encouragement the Officers are to have. We have only to add that we think there is a very reasonable Prospect that in case of actual & beneficial Service, some proper Reward will be conferred perhaps in Land; but this being not actually promised, is to be considered only as an Opinion. We trust that when the Importance of this service is considered, you will use every possible Exertion to promote it, and we shall endeavour on all Occasions to pay a just Attention to your Merit and Services.

I am.

To the Captains app^d to recruit the 5 companies of rangers—Tho^s Campbel, Tho^s Cluggage.

PRES. REED TO CAPT. THOMAS CAMPBELL, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, April 7th, 1779.

Sir,

Herewith you will receive an appointment of a Captaincy of a Company of Rangers. Lest you should have a Difficulty of accepting it on Account of your Standing or rather Claims in the Continental Line, I think it may be proper to acquaint you that I doubt not upon your Application to the Board of War, you may obtain Leave to serve in this Corps, without Prejudice to your Claims on the Continent; but if not, I think you will serve yourself & your Country more effectually in this Corps, than by waiting the Determination of the Officers in Camp. Mr. Isaac Thompson is appointed 1st Lieutenant, & Mr. Alexander Parker 2d Lieutenant. You will do well to communicate their appointments to them as soon as possible, and let us know if any Difficulty arises. Mr. Thompson lives over the Mountain. Mr. Parker near Carlisle.

If they should not accept, you will consult the Lieutenant of the County, & with his Concurrence recommend suitable Persons in their Places as soon as possible. The Uncertainty whether you will accept, together with the State of the Treasury, forbid our sending Money, but you will let us know very soon, & contrive to give us a good Opp^r; in the mean Time you may perhaps borrow Money, if Recruits are to be had.

I am, Sir,

Your Obed. Hbble. Serv.,

JOS. REED.

The Recruits being to be march'd as soon as possible to some Place where Continental Provisions are laid up, the Subsistance Money will only be paid for 2 Weeks after the Enlistment.

I do hereby certify That _____ is appointed by the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania to be _____ of one of the five Companies of Rangers to be raised for the defence of the frontiers of the said State, and commissions will be accordingly issued by the Board of War, when the rank of the officers of the said companies shall be adjusted.

Philadelphia, April , 1779.

D. RITTENHOUSE TO SEC. MATLACK, 1779.

Sir,

I have received of the Continental Treasurer, 55,000 Dollars, on the Resolve of Congress, a warrant not being made out; the whole of this money is already expended, and I have not the least encouragement to apply for more at present.

Yours, &c.,

DAV'D RITTENHOUSE.

Wednesday, April 7th.

T. Matlack, Esq., Secretary.

Indorsed.

In answer to a note from me, inquiring into the State of the Treasury.

T. M., Sec'y.

VALUE OF RATIONS, 1779.

An Estimate of the present value of a single Ration per week.

Philad^a, April 7th, 1780.

Ten Pounds of Beef, Pork or Mutton, at 37s. 6p. $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.	£18	15	0
Six pounds of Flour at £90. $\frac{3}{4}$ ct.,	4	5	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
One third of a pound of candles at 75p. $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.,	1	5	0
Vegetables, sixpence per week. Exchange at 60 for one,	1	10	0
Original Allowance of Rum, seven half pints per week, for which is received by a Resolve of Council,	0	7	0
Original Allowance of Salt, half a pint a Ration per week, but since reduced by the Commissary to one gill, at £60,	0	4	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
One Twelfth of a Cord of Wood, at £60 per Cord,	5	0	0
Allowance of Paper, Quills and Ink powder, say	0	7	6

£31 14 10 $\frac{1}{2}$

An Estimate of the value of such refreshments as by act of Assembly those persons in the Naval Service of the State are entitled to receive, with each ration of Provisions for one week.

Rum, one pint each	Ration per week, at £55 per Gall ⁿ ,	£6 17 6
Sugar, half a pound	do. per do., at 87s. 6d. pr. lb.,	1 13 9
Chocolate, do.,	do. per do., at 105s. pr. lb.,	2 12 6
Coffee, four ounces	do. per do., at 90s. pr. lb.,	1 2 6
Tea, one ounce	do. per do., at £30 pr. lb.,	1 17 6
Tobacco, four ounces	do. per do., at 60s. pr. do.,	0 15 0
Soap, two ounces,	do. per do., at 75s. pr. do.,	0 9 4½
		£15 8 1½

For which is paid by the Officers & Privates

One Pint of Rum, at 5s. per Gall ⁿ ,	£0 0 7½
Half a pound of Sugar, at 3s. 9d. per lb.,	0 1 10½
Half a pound of Chocolate, at 3s. 9d. do.,	0 1 10½
Four ounces of Coffee, at 3s. 9. do.,	0 0 11½
One ounce of Tea, at 12s. do.,	0 0 9
Four ounces of Tobacco, at 9d. do.,	0 0 2½
Two ounces of Soap, at 1s. 3d. do.,	0 0 2
	£0 6 5 0 6 5

Balance value of the refreshments received for each

Ration Per week,	£15 1 8½
To which add value of a Provision Ration, &c.,	31 14 10½
	£46 16 7

JOSEPH RUSH AND JAMES CRAIG TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Philad^a, April 7th, 1779.

Gent^l,

Agreeable to your order to us of the 6th Instant, We waited upon the Owners of the ship Genl. Green, & acquainted them of our appointment to Value the said ship. They have not yet appointed

the two Gent^a on their side, as soon as that is done, and the Bills
&c. Collected, we shall proceed on the business.

We have the honor to be, Gent^a,
your most obe't H'ble Serv^{ts}

JOSEPH RUSH.
JA^s CRAIG, junr.*

Directed,
The Hon'ble the Council of Pennsylvania.

CIRCULAR OF CONGRESS, 1779.

Philadelphia, 7th April, 1779.

Sir,

Herewith enclosed are copies of two acts of Congress—one of the
23d ult., for regulating the Cloathing Department, the other of the
5th Inst.,† providing for the Pay of the officers employed in it.

You will perceive that the first refers the appointment of the sub,
or State, Cloathier to the different States, and that the second leaves
their Salaries to be ascertained & paid by the States appointing
them.

Such has long been the deranged State of this Department, and
such is the Importance of immediately carrying the present System
into Execution, that Congress hope it will meet with the earliest
attention.

I have the Honor to be,
With great Respect,
Your Excellency's most obedient Serv't,

JOHN JAY,
Presid't.

His Excellency, President Reed.

PRESIDENT REED TO THE COMMISSARIES, &c., 1779.

In Council,

Philada., April 8, 1779.

Gentlemen,

In Consequence of the Direction from the Hon., the Board of War,
& your Application to me respecting the Posts to which Provisions
are to be sent for the Supply of the Troops ordered for Defence of
the Frontiers I would now acquaint you that it will be proper to

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 739.

† See page 293.

establish Magazines at Bedford Town, The lead Mine in Sinking Valley and Hannas Town, in Westmoreland, from whence they may be distributed as Occasions farther require. In case of any Difficulty which at this Distance we cannot foresee or obviate, you will direct your People to apply to the Lieutenants of the Counties, who being Men of Influence & Knowledge of the Frontiers, will be able to give them such Advice and Direction as Circumstances may require.

I am Sir,

J. R., Pres't.

To the Commissaries General of Purchases & Issues.

Postscript to the within letter.

P. S. Every day bringing fresh advices of the unhappy state of the Frontiers, I request the Commissioners to exert themselves, or the Militia not finding the necessary provisions may return & the Consequences be very fatal.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF WAR TO THE
SAME PERSONS & INCLOSED IN THIS LETTER.

War office, April 3, 1779.

Sir,

His Excellency, the President of Pennsylvania, having informed the Board that he has ordered two hundred and fifty militia from York, Cumberland & Lancaster to the Frontiers of Westmoreland & Bedford, to be stationed there until the Companies of Rangers to be raised for the defence of the frontiers of this state are completed, you will give the necessary directions as to the supply of these troops on the Presidents informing you of the Posts they are to take.

We are Sir,

Your very Obed't Servants,

RICHARD PETERS.

By order.

(Copy.)

T. Matlack, Sec'y.

COL. MATTHEW SMITH TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Sir,

Since my arrival at Paxtang I have us^d my Endeavour to find out fit persons to serve as officers in the Comp^y to be Rais^d in Lancaster County, and Can with pleasure inform you that Capt^a James Collier hath Consented to serve as a Capt^a. He is very active in the Militia Service, and on several occasions has distinguished himself, Both at home & in the field, he is a good soldier & an active Woodsman. There is two other young Men I have thought of, that it's hoped they will serve as Lieutenants, But they being abroad, and not haveing an oppertunity to consult them on the affair, I thought best to take this oppertunity to write, in hopes to have the Comission for the Capt^a above mention^d, Sent forward as Early as possible, with the Recruiting Instructions & Cash, that I shall take Care to see Early put to the use Intended, If those two Gentlemen Can be prevailed on to serve, I mean Mr. Will^m Young as first Lieut. & Mr. Will^m Kelso as 2d. I have hopes they will have a Comp^y in two or three Weeks, Ready to march. For y^t Reason I Would think it Best to send Blanks for the Lieuts. that in Case these would not Receive, the Commissions Can be Given to others.

I am, with Great Esteem,

Your Most ob't & very Humble Serv't,

MATT^m SMITH.

Paxtang, April 8th, 1779.

Joseph Reed, Esq., President.

(Mr. Steel, at the Harp and Crown, will take up money, instructions, &c.)

T. M.

 PETITION OF CAPTAINS OF PENNSA. LINE, 1779.

To His Excellency the President, and Hon'ble Members of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

We, the Captains of the Pennsylvania Line now in Camp, conceiving ourselves greatly injured by the appointment of Captain Joseph Prowell to a Majority in the Line of the State, beg leave to address your Hon'ble Board on this (to us) very important Subject.

As Captain Prowell is an Officer much younger in Rank than many of us, we must suppose his appointment to have been in consequence of a misrepresentation of Facts.

We therefore beg the favorable interposition of your Excellency & the Hon'ble Board, that Captain Prowell's pretensions to an appointment which so much aggrieves us, may be inquired into, and we obtain that redress which we confidently expect from your impartial Justice.

We are, Gentlemen,

With the highest esteem joined with the utmost respect,
Your Excellency's & Honors'
greatly obliged and most obedient
Humble Servants,

Wm. Alexander, Cap^t 7th P. R.
Jos. M'Clellan, Cap^t 9th P. R.
George Tudor, Cap^a 4th P. R.
T. B. Bowen, Cap^a 9th P. R.
Alexander Parker, Cap^t 7th P. R.
John Christy, Cap^t 5th P. R.
Tho^r Butler, Cap. 3rd P. Reg^t.
John Davis, Cap^t 9th P. R.
Ad^m Bittin, Cap^t 4th P. Reg^t.
John Patterson, Cap^t 2nd P. Reg.
J. Stake, Cap^t 10 P. Reg^t.
And^r Irwine, Cap^t 7 P. Reg^t.
Jacob Bower, Cap^t 6th P. Reg^t.
Wm. Bratton, Cap. 7th P. Reg^t.
Tho^r Boude, Cap^a 5th P. Reg^t.
George Grant, Cap^a 9th P. R.
Isaac Seely, Cap^a 5th P. Reg.
Wm. Miller, Cap^t 7th P. Reg^t.
Thomas L. Moore, Cap. 3^d Penna. Reg^t.
James Hamilton, Cap^t 1st Penna. Reg^t.
Ja. Chrystie, Cap^t 3rd P. R.
John Bankson, Cap^t 2d Reg^t Pen.
Jn^a Alexander, Cap^t 7th P. Reg^t.
Ja. Wilson, Cap. 1st P. Reg.
Benj^a Fishbourne, Cap. 4th P. Reg^t.
Peter Gosner, Cap^t 2nd Reg^t Penna.
Isaac Budd Dunn, Cap^a 3^d P. Reg^t.

Camp, Millstone, April 8th, 1779.

Directed,

On Public Service. His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

OWNERS OF BRIG ACHILLES TO COUNCIL, 1779.

The Owners of the Brig Achilles would be much obliged to the Honorable Council to spare them 400 Shot of between 2 & 3 pound weight, this sort of Shot not being much wanted, they flatter themselves with being indulged in this favor without any inconvenience to the State,—to which they will be accountable for their Value.

SAML. C. MORRIS,

for himself & other owners.

To The Honorable the Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Philada., April 8th, 1779.*

Indorsed,

Referr'd to Cap^t Stiles & George Henry, who are to report whether the State can spare the Shot without Inconvenience.—J. R.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, April 9, 1779.

Sir,

It appears that the bearer, Jesse Thompson,† was scalped near Wyoming in Col^l Hartley's expedition last fall. He turned out a volunteer. Your Excellency may remember that a few months ago Congress extended the provision for disabled Soldiers to every man who turned out against the enemy, & happened to be disabled in the manner mentioned in the resolutions of Congress, of Oct^r, 1776. As such persons were recommended by Congress to be provided for by the States to which they belonged, we beg leave to refer the bearer to your Excellency.

And are very respectfully,

Your most obed. Servants.

By order of the Board,

TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President, &c.

War Office.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 747.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 747.

COUNCIL TO McCLENACHAN & IRWIN, 1779.

Philada., April 9th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

The Council direct me to request that you will settle the rank between the captain of the Cutter and of the General Green,* before either of them sail. They also desire that you will obtain the agreement with the owners of the cutter in writing, duly signed, in order to prevent any future altercation on the subject. And it may perhaps be prudent to shew to his Excellency, the President, the agreement before it is signed.

I am, with due respect,

Your very humble Servant,

TIMOTHY MATLACK, Secr'y.

Messrs. McClenachan and Irwin.

SEC. MATLACK TO JOHN MORRIS, JR., 1779.

Philadelphia, April 10, 1779.

Sir,

Your servant brought to my house, yesterday, the resolves of Assembly of the 5th inst., on the report of the joint Committee, but the report itself is not sent, which leaves the thing very imperfect, and therefore the Council desire you will send it properly authenticated to be put into the hands of our delegates in Congress.

The proceedings of the General Assembly, in the case of the lines between this State and Virginia, is also wanted to be put into the hands of the Virginia delegates in Congress, immediately, they having requested them, probably with a view of bringing forward that business.

I am, with due respect,

Sir,

Your very hm'ble Servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

John Morris, Esq'.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 780, 747.

McCLENACHAN & IRWIN TO PRES. REED. 1779.

Philad^a, 10th April, 1779.

Sir,

It being necessary that officers sho^d be immediately appointed for the Ship General Green, we take the liberty of recommending Sam^l Carson for first Lieutenant Jacob De Hart Second Lieutenant,* and Edw^d Patterson Capⁿ of Marines, whom we sho^d be glad your Excellency would appoint as soon as you conveniently can.

We should also be much obliged by your fixing the Terms &c., on which we are to engage the Seamen. We are obliged to make immediate payments for the Provisions (which we have already Bought) therefore would be obliged by your Excellency supplying us with Cash.

We are your Excellencys

Most Obe^t Serv^{ts}MATH'W IRWIN,
BLAIR McCLENACHAN.

P. S. We have been informed you have agreed to Charter the Cutter, if so, sho^d be glad of your Instructions therein, as we are desirous of executing our business with all possible dispatch, as well to serve the Public, as to disappoint the late Continental Agents, who wo^d wish to see us go on with our business as slowly as they did with the Continental affairs.

Directed,

To His Excellency Jos. Reed, Esq^r, president of the state of Pennsylvania.

JNO. MORRIS, JR., TO SECY. MATLACK 1779.

Philadelphia, April 11th, 1779.

Sir,

I cannot recollect by what mistake the former Copy respecting the Report of the Joint Committee was so imperfectly sent, I have now however sent an authenticated Copy of y^e Report & of the Resolve of the House thereon.

I shall be glad that you would distinguish which of the Proceedings of the assembly respecting the Virginia Line, are wanted. If the whole are wanted, they will run to considerable Length; if only

* Both appointed, see Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 751.

those of this Assembly, they will be much shorter. Also when they are expected—as I have so many other Papers to copy.

I am Sir,

y^r Very h^{ble} Serv^t

JOHN MORRIS, Jr.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack Esqr., Secretary, Present.

MATTHEW IRWIN TO HON. JOHN BAYARD, 1779.

Sir,

Not having time to wait of you this morn^g, I take the liberty of acquaint^g you that at a meeting of the merch^{ts} yesterday, Cap^t Montgomery had at least three-fourths in his fav^r Capt^l Green was proposed & his cause warmly espoused by the Gentlemⁿ whom I expected wo^d reccommend him—M^r McClenachan & myself have this morn^g wrote the President, & given three Names to make choice of, Montgomery, Huston & Green, and requested that one of them might be immediately appointed—I think the former the most deserving, if you are of the same opinion, sho^d be glad you wo^d acquaint the President this morn^g.*

I am Sir,

your most Ob^t Serv^t

MATH'W IRWIN.

Directed,

To the Honorable Jno. Bayard.

MICHAEL JENNINGS TO JOHN HAMBRIGHT, 1779.

Philad^a Ap^l 12th, 1779.

Sir,

Being in great want of Cloathing (of which I have received none since the War,) I shall esteem it a particular favor, if you will acquaint the Hon^{ble} Council thereof, of whom I must beg an Order for such Articles as I am in Need of—Your Compliance will greatly oblige.

Sir your most ob^t

hum^t Servant

M. JENNINGS.

Directed,

To The hon^{ble} John Hambright, Esq^r.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 730, 747.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 13th April, 1779.

Sir,

I have the Pleasure of transmitting to your Excellency a copy of certain Resolutions of Congress of the third Inst.,* declaring the high sense they entertain of the Importance & Services of Pennsylvania, and expressing a determination to observe a Line of Conduct which cannot fail to establish a mutual confidence between them & the several States they represent.

Permit me to assure you of my best endeavours to second the views of Congress, & of my constant attention to such parts of my duty as may respect this State.

I have the Honor to be

With great Respect

your Excellency's

Most Obedt Servant

JOHN JAY, President.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, April 13th, 1779.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honourable Board of War to transmit to you the enclosed Resolve of Congress, and to desire you to give the necessary Orders to the Clothiers and other Persons in the State of Pennsylvania, who have supply'd Cloathing to any of the Continental Troops, for the year 1777, that they make Returns of the same according to the Resolve.

Have also to request that the Returns may be sent to James Mease, Esq', Clothier General at Philadelphia, where I shall receive them.

Permit me with all due submission to urge that the Returns may be forwarded with all possible Dispatch, as the Payment of Arrearages due to the Troops on Cloathing Bounty Amount for the year

* See page 287, and Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 748.

1777, too long delay'd already, must be totally suspended untill the Returns in Question can be collected.

I am Sir,

your very Obedient servant,

RALPH POMEROY,
Commissioner of Cloath^s accounts.*

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of Pennsylvania.

PRESIDENT REED TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a, April 14th, 1779.

Sir,

I was hon^d yesterday with your Excell^{ty} Favour, inclosing the Resolution of Congress of the 3d Inst. I cannot but be highly grateful to every real Friend to American Liberty & Happiness, to see so fair a Prospect of future Harmony between the several Members. I have now the Pleasure of transmitting to your Hon^d Body correspondent Resolves passed by the legislative & executive Authorities of the State.† The Unanimity which accompanied them, must demonstrate with what satisfaction we embraced every Measure tending to remove those Impressions to which we yielded with great Reluctance. And as we have the fullest Confidence that any Measure tending to revive them will meet with your Disapprobation, we shall rest perfectly assured of being equally the Objects of your Care & Attention as our Sister States in Union.

The polite Manner in which you, Sir, have been pleased to convey these sentiments of Congress, cannot fail of its due Weight with us, & will upon all Occasions call for a suitable Return.

I am, Sir, with the most respectful Regard,

your obed. H^{ble} Serv^t,

JOS. REED.

Directed,

Hⁿble John Jay, Esq^r, President of Congress.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI. pp. 749, 752.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 787, 788.

IRWIN AND BRIDGES TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philad^a, April 14th, 1779.

Sir,

We hereby take the liberty of acquainting your Excellency, that we are fitting out the Lord Cambden, Galley, to Cruize as near New York as possible; for the compleat equipment of said Vessel we stand in need of a pear of Twelve pounders, there is a pear which belong to the State on Plumstead's wharf; we would be very much obliged to your Excellency to let us have them, either on Loan or at the valuation.

We are Sir,

your Excellency's most obe^{at}humbl^t Serv^{ts},MATH^w IRWIN,ROB^t BRIDGES.*Directed,*

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Mr Henry, to direct an Appraisement if the Guns, can be spared without Inconvenience to the State.

J. R.

WILLIAM CRISPIN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, and the Hon^{bl} the Executive Council.

The Commissary presents his Compliments, Requesting the Sum of Ten Thousand Pounds for the Expenditure of the State Fleet, And to discharge the Butcher's last Three Months acc^o of Beef Issued.

W^m CRISPIN.†

Philadelphia, April 14th, 1779.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 748.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 750.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, 14th April, 1779.

It being represented to Congress that the General Assembly of the State of Massachusetts Bay have authorized & directed the board of War of the said State to purchase flour & grain for the use of the Inhabitants thereof, who are greatly distressed for the want of bread.

Resolved, That it be & is hereby recommended to the executive powers of the States of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, to permit the exportation of such flour & grain as has been or may be purchased within the said States respectively, under the direction of the said board of war, if authorized as aforesaid.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

GEORGE McELHENY TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To the Honorable the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania. The memorial of George McElheny of the County of Chester, in the State of Pennsylvania.

Sheweth,

That your memorialist is Desirous of Cultivating and Improving a tract of Land situated in the township of Pikeland, in the said County of Chester, belonging to the United States—it is the place where the Powdermill on French Creek formerly stood, and which, now, is entirely waste open and unclosed, and of no use to any person except as a Common to the neighbourhood.

Your memorialist prays that your Honors would grant the said Land to him, either upon a Lease at a Reasonable Rent, or upon Conditions of Improvement, as to your Honors shall seem meet, and your memorialist will pray, &c.

GEORGE McELHENY.

Philadelphia, April 14th, 1779.

•
RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, April 14, 1779.

Whereas Congress, on the Twenty-first Day of *August* last, did Resolve, That when any Persons are desirous of going within the Enemy's Lines, they shall apply to the Executive Power of the State to which they belong; and if the said Executive Power approve the Motives and Characters of the Persons applying, and shall be of Opinion, especially at so critical Conjunctions as the present, that no Danger will ensue by granting such Permission, that they recommend them to the Officer commanding the Troops next to the Enemy, who, upon such Recommendation, may, at his Discretion permit the Persons to go in.—For the better Execution of the said Resolution :

Resolved,

That any Officer, who shall permit a Person to go within the Enemy's Lines without such Recommendation, or the Orders of the Commander in Chief, or the Commander of a separate Department, and shall thereof be duly convicted before a Court Martial, shall thereby forfeit his Commission.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec.*

PRESIDENT REED TO LT. SAMUEL HUNTER, 1779.

In Council.

Philadelphia, April 14th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour by Lt. Gaddis came safely to Hand, & we are truly concerned to find that the Indians have renewed their Depredations. By this Time I hope you have received my Letter of the 27th March, giving you a full account of the Measures taken here for your Defence. You will there see that far from being neglected, every Measure has been taken that could be devised for your Relief. By a letter I received from General Washington, of the 8th Instant, General Hand was to march from Minisink for Wyoming, the 5th Instant, with about 600 Men, which will be a very competent Force for your Protection, as well as that of Wyoming. If you apply to General Hand, I make no doubt he will detach to Munsey such a number of Men as will support that Post, in which case you will have all the Security which stationary forces can give.

* From handbill. See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 753, 757.

Mr. Gaddis carries the Appointments of Captain M^cIlhadden & his officers for the Company to be raised in Northumberland, under the Resolve of Congress. Recruiting Instructions are also sent herewith, by which it will be seen what Encouragement the Men are to have. If the Men raised for your 3 Companies were to fall into this one, I think it would be a proper Transfer. Mr. Gaddis takes up Money; we have detained him for that Purpose longer than we could have wished, but it could not be avoided.

Our Appointments is,*

John M^cIlhaddon, Captain.

Robert Arthur, 1st Lieutenant.

John Dougherty, 2nd Lieutenant.

We have directed Mr. Gaddis to deliver to Captain M^cIlhadden his Appointment. Mr. Arthur & Mr. Dougherty are, perhaps, with you, if so, you will please to deliver them their Appointments & Instructions.

Mr. Gaddis carries with him 10,000 Dollars, & we have directed him to leave 1500 Dollars with Captain M^cIlhaddon, the rest to be paid to you, & you will apply it to the Service, directed as in your Discretion you judge best.

Having done this, & we hope fully demonstrated that all the good People of the State, however remote are equally the Objects of our Care & Attention, we doubt not you will rest assured of an unremitting Regard to your Safety, and that we shall be glad to hear from you at all Times.

We have now only to add that, as it is a time of common Danger, we would recommend to you to cultivate Harmony & a good Understanding with the People at Wyoming, leaving our unhappy Disputes in that Quarter to be settled as Peace & more favourable Circumstances will admit. I inclose you a News Paper—we have no important Intelligence, either foreign or domestick. The Enemy threaten our Sea Coast, & we esteem it a Duty to make every Preparation in our Power. We hope you will pursue a similar Course, & remember that while we call for Help & Assistance from others, it is our Duty to exert ourselves & use all the Means in our Power.

The Spirit shown by raising the 3 Companies is a happy Proof of this Temper, and we hope it will extend itself to Bedford and Westmoreland.

I am sir, with due esteem,

your most obed^t & humble serv^t.

P. S. If Lieutenants Arthur & Dougherty are removed from the County, or decline the Services you will recommend others, & in the Mean Time forward the Recruiting by every Means in your Power.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 740.

Mr Martin, Member of Assembly, is, by a Resolve of Assembly appointed Receiver of the Congress Emissions of May & September, for your County, & will relieve you in that Article.

Directed,

To Colonel Samuel Hunter, Esqr., Lieutenant of Northumberland County.

PRESIDENT REED TO McCLENACHAN AND IRWIN, 1779.

In Council.

Philadelphia, April 15th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

The Council having fully deliberated on the Circumstances of the Revenge* Cutter, the very heavy Terms proposed by the Charter Party, & their Variance from those expected by us, pursuant to our Letter of the 3rd April, and also that, notwithstanding our repeated Desires, Captain Conyngham is gone without any State Commission, Submission to any Article of War, & without Orders or Instructions—we can have no Confidence that he will perform what is expected from him, and therefore, yesterday, came to a Resolution to return her to her Owners, unless Captain Conyngham is upon a proper Footing, & the Ship can be had upon the more reasonable Terms, specified by us. The Owners have even considered it as a Favour, but we cannot view it in that Point of Light, & therefore are more free in resting her to them, & they will thereby be at Liberty to prosecute their Cruise, from which they expect such advantages.

P. S. You will please to seal and forward the inclosed to Mr. Hodge.

Directed,

To Messrs. Blair McClenachan, and Matthew Irwin, Merchants.
Present.

* See page 288.

PRES. REED TO ANDREW HODGE, &c., 1779.

Council Chamber ;
April 15, 1779.

Sir,

Having perused the Draught of the Charter Party of the Revenge Cutter, we find it differs materially from our Apprehension of the Terms which are contained in the inclosed Papers, & hearing nothing afterwards from the Owners of the Cutter, or Mess^{rs} McClanachan & Irwin, we concluded that the within Propositions were agreed to.

We also find that Capt. Conyngham has gone away, whether to return or not is uncertain, without settling the Rank with Montgomery, or receiving any Instructions or Orders, tho' he was requested by the Presid^t, in person, to do both—That there are no Articles signed by his People with the State; nor has the Captain or any of his Officers taken any Commission under the State. All which are Circumstances so important in our View, that unless the Transactions can be put on the Footing & Terms expected by us, It is the Sense of the Council to return her to her Owners; they returning what Stores may have been put on board by the State, & leave the Defence of the Trade to the Ship, &c. Indeed, after what has past, we can have little Expectation that Capt. Conyngham will pay much Attention to our Views which are to protect the Trade, not to go a privateering. And, therefore, as it has been considered by the Owners of the Cutter that they were sacrificing their Interest on the Occasion, we are of Opinion that we can, without Prejudice to the publick, relieve the Owners of the Cutter, & enable them to pursue their original Intentions in which they were so sanguine.

Directed,

To Mr Andrew Hodge, one of the owners of the Revenge Cutter.

CAPT. G. CONYNGHAM TO*

1779.

Wilmington, 15th April, 1779.

Sr,

I received yours. It appears the Governor is Uneasy at my Leaving town before the rank and Orders was given. I told Mr. McCleaghen I was going to leave town; Likewise yourself And left this matter to be settled by yourselves. It Makes but Very little Difference to me. I ask no more than whatever you may, With the president, think I am entitled to; and, Mr. Nisbett, my Commission is Continentall. I should send the Coppy to you, Only that it is a

* Probably to the owners.

board; to come to town it is impossible. I have not one Officer on board. If I left the Vessell every man would come ashore—you well know What a sett they are,—out of the number on board their is not 10 Sailors. I shall expect the presidents orders and Directions With M^r Welsh, or Some other Safe Opportunity heare.

I am, Sir,

Your most obd^t Serv^t,

G. CONYNGHAM.

N. B.

The people I can with much Difficulty keep on Board.

VALUATION OF SHIP GEN. GREEN, 1779.

We, the Subscribers, appointed as well on the part of the Honorable the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, as on that of the Owners of the Ship General Green, to ascertain the value of the said Ship at the time she was purchased by the State, having carefully Examined all the Accounts respecting the said Ship called the General Green, with the pig Iron, Eight Guns, and three pair of Howitz, are of opinion, according to the best of our Judgement, that the Sum of Fifty three Thousand and Fifty Seven Pounds, Eleven Shillings Currency ought to be allowed and paid to the Owners of the said Ship.

Witness our Hands this 15th day of April, 1779.

£53,057 11 0

SAML. C. MORRIS,
THOS. PENROSE,
JAS. CRAIG, jun.
JOSEPH RUSH.*

Directed,

The Owners of Ship General Green.

Indorsement,

Read in Council, April 16, 1779.

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Order drawn, April 23, 1779.

T. M., Sec'y.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 751.

PROCLAMATION FOR A FAST, 1779.

PROCLAMATION,

By his Excell^y &c.

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America by their Resolve of the 20th March, did recommend, in the following Words viz. :—(Here insert the Proclamation of Congress.)

Wherefore, as well in Respect to the s^d Recommendation of Congress as the plain Dictates of Duty, whereby we are called to acknowledge & implore the Providence & Protection of Heaven, we do hereby earnestly recommend to the good People of this Commonwealth to set apart the first Thursday in May next for the pious Purposes mentioned in the s^d Resolve, & that they abstain from all Labour & Recreation on that Day.

Given, &c.*

GENERAL HAND TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Lancaster, 16th April, 1779.

Sir,

I think it my duty to inform your Excell^y that in consequence of his Excellency, General Washington's orders, I am thus far on my way to Wyoming, on the Susquehannah, to take the Command of the Troops on that River. As their number is but small, and the principal object of my Command lies above Wyoming, I am apprehensive that I can't pay much attention to Sunbury or the contiguous settlements, should the Enemy attempt any thing in that Neighbourhood, your Excellency will therefore be pleased to take such Measures for their particular security as you think necessary.

It is needless, I hope, to mention how happy I should deem myself could I render any services to the distressed Inhabitants of that part of the State, and that I shall be ever ready to promote any operations your Exo^y may think proper to direct in their favour, as far as the nature of my instructions will admit of, if your Exo^y will please to Honour me by any Commands, direct them to be forwarded by Col. Geo. Ross, D. Q. M. G., Lancaster.

I am, Sir, with much respect,

Your Exo^y's most obed^t &

Most H^{ble} Serv^t,

EDW^d HAND.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To His Exo^y, Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the Supreme Exo^y Council of the State of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

Edwd. Hand.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 750.

PRESIDENT REED TO MESSRS. McCLENACHAN & IRWIN, 1779.

Council Chambers, April 16, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Council having considered your Proposition this Morning & the various circumstances attending the Cutter, still think that the Departure of Capt. Conyngham, without Settlement of the Command or Receiving Orders,* or taking a Commission under the State, & the evident keeping back his Commission, without which his Command cannot be settled, added to the Variation of the terms from what Council had fixed by their Letter of the 3d April, sufficiently justify them, & indeed make it necessary on Behalf of the Publick to declare that they cannot consider him in the service of the State—for we cannot think Capt. Conyngham will pay more Regard to our future Orders than he has done to those given in Person & more especially as he may have excuses for a Breach of Orders & a Deviation from our Plan, which we shall be less able to disprove. We wish our Terms of the 3d April had been communicated to the Owners & either accepted or rejected in writing, but as we doubt not you did what you thought was for the best, we shall be glad have it terminated in as easy Manner as possible, consistent with the Interest of the State. As it is our Opinion to give her up it is immaterial to us who takes her, provided the Matter is properly understood. You propose to take her on the Terms of the Charter Party, the Draught of which was shown us, & is now in your Hands, to which we agree, & give up all Claim or Pretence to the Cutter, or any Prize she may take, provided the Charge already incurred on the Part of the State be refunded, the Stores put on board by the publick & accounted for, & we think it necessary for our own Vindication that the Owners of the Cutter should be informed that from the Circumstances of Capt. Conyngham's Conduct & the Misunderstand^s of the Terms, the State give her up, otherwise there may be Danger of giving reasonable Cause of Complaint to them, who will say they gave her to the Publick, not to Individuals, & should she be successful on her Cruize, will probably be very clamorous on this Score.

If it is not agreeable to you to notify the Owners of the Cutter of our Determination, it will be best to send forward the letter we sent you yesterday. But we rather chuse to take the Chance of all unjust Reflections than by any Concealment from the Owners of the Cutter give them just Cause of Dissatisfaction by taking her out of their Hands for any other than a publick Use.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obed^t H^bble Serv^t.

P. S. You will please let us have a few Lines in Answer & exonerating the State from all Risque & Expence, if it is so settled.

* See page 318, also 288.

CAPT. ANDREW WALKER TO JOHN HAMBRIGHT, 1779.

Fort Muncy, 17th Ap^l, 1779.

D^r Sir,

Your representing this County in the Hon'ble Executive Council, and from a slender acquaintance I had with you, have Imboulden'd me to point you out as the most Proper person to lay before Council a Plan of this Fort,* together with the hardcheeps the Troopes have sustained whoe have built it, from the first of Aug^t to this Present Period.

On the 2d of Aug^t, wee ware ordred by Colonel Hartley to build this Fort; wee Immeadietly begon and Finnish'd by the 18th of Sep^r, with these Exceptions—There was but one row of Abbeties round it, wee had built Neither Barrak's Store or Magazine.

On the 20th of Sep^r, the Garrason, which Consisted of 1 Cap^t, 2 Sub^s, 4 Serg^{ts}, & 60 Rank and File, ware drawn out (Except 1 Sub^s & 18) on an Expedition under the Command of Colonel Hartley—on the 9th of Sep^r wee Again marched into it; bad weather comeing on we begon our Barraks Magazine, Store house, &c.; when this was Finesh'd, wee ware Comfortably Prepared Again the winter; but in the Spring I found the Works much Impeared; I then set the Garraeson to Repair the Works, and raised them Eighteen Inches; Then wee put two rowes more of Abbeties round the works—this is Just now Finesh'd; it is to be Observ'd that in the Course of this time, one third of our men ware Constantly Employed as Guards to the Inhabitants, and, I may Aferm, in Harveest the one halfe ware Employed the same way, nor can anny man in the County say he ever Asked a guard (when he had a Just Occation) and was denied. Dureing this time the Troops ware not supplied even with Ration Whiskey, allmoste Neaked for want of Blankets and Cloathes, and yet I have the satisfaction to infoarm you they done their Duty Cheerfully. I from time to time did promise them some Compensation for their Treble and Industrey. The works are now finished, and, in my oppinion, Taneble again anny number our Savage Enemy can bring again it; as to my own part, I begg lave to observe That I neither clame Meret or Reward for what I have done—it's enough that I have done my Duty. Yet, Sir, as I have Promised these men a Compensation for there Industry, I begg you will Please to lay before the Hon'ble the Council, the Inclosed Plan, which will Inable them to Judge wheather the Troops deserve a Reward for their labour or not.

* This not found.

The sole cost this fort is to the States is, to building two Roomes for the officers, Making the gate & two Sentry Boxes.

I have the Honour to be,

With due Respect,

Your Moste Obedient & Verry

Humble Servant,

ANDW. WALKER,

Cap^t Com'g Fort Muncy.

Directed,

(On Public Business.)

John Hamright, Esq^r, Member of the Hon'ble Exacutive Council, Philadelphia.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 18th April, 1779.

Sir,

You will receive herewith enclosed copies of two Acts of Congress of the 14th Inst. One to prevent Persons going within the Enemy's Lines unless authorized in the manner mentioned in it.* The other on the subject of permitting Persons, under the direction of the Board of War of Massachusetts Bay, (if authorized by that State,) to export grain & flour &c.†

I have the Honor to be,

with Respect & Esteem,

your Excellency's

most obedient Serv^t,

JOHN JAY,

Presid^t.

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 757.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 758.

BARON STEUBEN TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Sir,

The reason which has determined Switzerland as well as other Republics of Europe to place their Security in a Militia capable of supporting their independency, is the Want of the necessary means to maintain a Standing Army. This reason has a much greater Weight in the United States, where it would be impossible to keep up Armies numerous enough to defend so numerous a Country from every hostile invasion, Especially when the naval force of our Enemies is so much Superior to ours.

It is then in our Militia that we must find the real strength that we are to oppose to that of Great Britain, and these are indeed the most respectable Forces, which consist of brave Citizens, who animated by the noblest motives, defend their Country and their Liberty. Our business is then now to find out the means of rendering that Militia capable to supply the Want of a well regulated standing Army, or at least, as much as lies in our Power.

These means should be simple: Uniformity in the formation, in the march and in the motions of the Troops, and the keeping them together in Order, are the most Essential Points.

In the Composition of the first Part of the regulations which have been just published I have Established general Principles, as easy and as convenient for our Regiments of Militia as for the Continental Army, putting aside the Manual Exercise which I look on in some parts as superfluous. The rest may be introduced without the least difficulty, and the greatest advantage will result, when a Body of Militia will join the Enemy, as when it will act separately.

I am induced by this reason to address a Copy of these Regulations to your Excellency and the Honorable Council of Pennsylvania, and submit them to your judgment, and in case you are of opinion that these Rules actually introduced into our Army may serve also for the Militia of your State, I have not only engaged with the Continental Board of War to keep Copies of them in readiness for the Legislatures of the several States who will demand them, but I expect only your Orders to request of the Commander in Chief to send you an Officer capable of introducing them and giving the necessary Explanations.

I have the honor to be With the greatest respect Sir,
Your Excellency's and the Hon^{ble} Council's
most obedient and very humble servant,
STEUBEN,
Maj. General.

Philadelphia, April 20th, 1779.

Directed,

On the service of the United States.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

JAMES DUNDAS TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Philadelphia, April 20th, 1779.

The subscriber begs leave to represent to the Supreme Executive Council that it will take about one thousand Pounds to discharge the Balances due to sundry Persons employed on the Fortifications at Billingsport and Red Bank, in the year 1777.

That a large proportion of the money he last received by order of your Hon^l Board, was of the Emissions called out of 'circulation, and that several of the People have refused to take it in payment, which has tended to retard the settlement of the public acc^{ts}.

The subscriber therefore begs that the Hon^l Council would be pleased to order their Treasurer to pay him in such money as may answer the intended purpose.

JAMES DUNDAS, P. M.

*Directed,*The Hon^l the Supreme Executive Council.*Indorsed,*

'Ord^r that the Petitioner lay a state of his Acc^t before the Board in order to a Warr^t issuing as prayed.

T. M., Sec'y.

 PETITION OF JUDGES IN CASE OF GEORGE HARDY, 1779.

Sir,

Inclosed herewith we have the honor to transmit to your Excellency and the Council, a transcript of the Record of the conviction and attainder of George Hardy, for High Treason, together with two Petitions for a pardon, the one signed by all the jurors who convicted him, and the other by divers reputable Citizens;* which have been recommended to our favorable introduction to Council.

The overt-act to which the evidence chiefly applied, was disarming the inhabitants of Southwark, in which business he was undoubtedly a Volanteer, and very active. His behaviour, during the several times he appeared before the court, and at and after his trial, was decent, respectful and penitential. His character appears to have been good before this affair. If his life is spared there is a

* These are not found.

prospect of his reformation. His death (being a man of small note or consideration) would afford little benefit by the example. And when we reflect that his offence has not been of the most aggravated species of treason, and that more than one, at least equally criminal with this man, has been tried before us, and acquitted by the extreme lenity and tenderness of the Juries, We find ourselves constrained to gratify the wishes of *his Jury* and Friends by recommending him to your mercy, so far as respects his life.

We are, with the utmost regard,
your Excellency's and the Council's
most obedient & most humble servants,
THO^o M^cKEAN,
WILL. S. ATLEE,
JOHN EVANS.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, &c.

GENL. WASHINGTON TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Head Quarters, Middle Brook,
20th April, 1779.

Gentlemen,

I have, in obedience to a resolve of Congress, of the 8d instant, directed a Court Martial to be held at this Camp on the 1st of May next, for the trial of Major General Arnold on the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 5th charges exhibited against him by the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

You will therefore be pleased to furnish the Court at the above time with the proper evidence in support of the charges.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, Gentlemen,
Your most obed. Servt.,

G^o. WASHINGTON.†

His Excell'y the President & Council of Pennsylvania.

Indorsed,

Rec'd 22, Ans'd the 24th, & sent by Gen. M^cIntosh the 26th.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., pp. 747, 753, 754, 760, 761, 764. He was then "repleved until the end of the same Session of the General Assembly, the word Session being understood to mean Sitting."

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 755. See reply, postea.

PRES. REED TO C. J. MCKEAN, 1779.

Sir,

Col. Smith, one of the agents for forfeited Estates has made a Representation respecting the Estate in this County formerly belonging to Richard Swanwick. And if it be just, as we have no Reason to question his Veracity, we are of Opinion the Justice, Honour, & Peace of Governm^t deeply affected by the Proceedings which are likely to take Place with Respect to those Tenants. The Farms it is said have been rented to them (after Notice to the Claimants Trotman & others) under the Faith & Assurances of Governm^t, they have prepared their Ground for a Spring Crop; their Families have no Places to move to, & yet it is said summary Process is to issue to dispossess them. When we consider these Persons & their Characters compared with those who are thus endeavouring to distress them, that the former want Houses because by their Services & Affection to their Country, they became exposed to the Rage & Desolation of the Enemy, & that the latter have them by a direct contrary Conduct, we cannot help expressing our Wishes that some Mode consistent with Law may be devised for their Relief, & in this View do recommend it to your most serious Consideration. If there is no such Method, we can only lament the fatal Defect of Justice & Policy, and shall endeavour to make it an Object of our attentive Consideration to prevent & redress future Cases of the like Kind.

We are far from wishing to mingle Considerations of Policy with those of Justice, but we cannot help suggesting our Apprehensions that too easy an Ear has been given by the Ministers of Justice to the Applications of those who are dissaffected to their Country & that from a Fear of the Imputation of Rigour or giving Offence, the contrary Error of extreme Compassion & a Desire to avoid Offence has taken Place, which in some Cases may be laudable & in others excuseable, yet had a Tendency to weaken Governm^t, & encourage the political Sinners of this State.

I am, Sir.

April 20, 1779.

W. H. DRAYTON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

April 22, 1779.

Sir,

In obedience to the order of Council this day published, I do without delay return into your hands the first & second Vol^s of "State Tracts" which I had removed from the State Library, where I had not time to use them to my lodgings where, after Congress hours, I had time to turn them over with attention.

These are the only books which I ever removed from the Library. If I could have thought that such an use of the Books would have given offence, I should not have taken such a liberty. However, I shall not repeat a conduct which I find is disagreeable.

I am, Sir,

Your most obed^t Serv^t

W^m H^y DRAYTON.

Eleven, A. M. April 22nd, 1779.*

Directed.

To Timothy Matlack, Esq^r.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, April 22, 1779.

Sir,

The Board have been desired by the Commander in Chief to take the necessary Steps for the March & Equipment of Col. Proctor's Regiment on a secret Expedition which requires their proceeding with every Degree of Dispatch. As Part of that Regiment is stationed at the Forts on the Delaware, we beg Leave to inform your Excellency & the Hon^{ble} Council, that means may be taken to relieve the Companies on the Delaware, if you think proper, with a competent Number of Militia.

We have the Honor to be
with the greatest Respect
your very obed^t Servants

RICHARD PETERS.

By Order.†

Directed,

On Public Service.

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of Pennsylvania.

(War Office.)

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 755, and page 355 of this Vol.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 756, 766.

GENL. J. P. DE HAAS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Lebanon, 22nd April, 1779.

Sir,

I beg leave to represent to your Excellency, that some time since a quantity of flour, which I had purchased at the request of a few inhabitants of the city of Philad^a for their own consumption was seised for the use of the publick, by one Schaffner a commissary at this post. As it was said to have been done by virtue of an order from the Board of War, I represented the circumstances to that body, to whose answer and to my letter herewith presented, for a more particular account of the transaction, I refer you. I am induced to believe that your Excellency and the Council will think I am entitled to some satisfaction or redress and that it will not be withheld from me.

I have the honor to be
your Excellency's
most obedient Serv^t

J. P. de HAAS.

Directed.

To His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

No. 1.

Lebanon, 11th February, 1779.

Sir,

I am going to address you on an unusual subject, but when I inform you that the grievance of which I am about to complain is said to have the authority of the Board of War you will not wonder. Some time since I was requested by some of my acquaintances in Philad^a to procure a few tons of good flour for their particular consumption, which I did, and had it stored at the mills, waiting an opportunity of sending it down. On the 4th inst. one Jacob Schaffner, a young lad appointed by Mr Cornelius Cox, ass^t Commissary of pur^s, to supply this post with provisions, came and informed me that he had Mr Cox's order to seize all my flour, wheat, &c^r, for the

use of the public. I answered that I had five or six tons of flour at the mills, which I considered as the property of sundry inhabitants of Philad^a, but in case of absolute necessity he should have it on his paying at least what it cost me, and at the same time informed him that Colonel Greenewalt of this place had flour for sale, and that Colo. Kucher, about a mile off, had purchased a large quantity of wheat, which I did not doubt was for sale also. Next day I was informed by the millers that Schaffner, with guards, waggons, &c^a, had seized and taken away the flour, & had issued orders to them to grind all the grain that should be brought to their mills, belonging to, or in the name of P. de Haas. This astonished me, but it's happy that I did not take the revenge which my passion first dictated. On the 6th instant, two waggons loaded with whiaky halted before my door. I immediately gave information thereof to M^r Schaffner that in case supplies were really scarce, he might have an opportunity of seizing that also; upon which he came and told me that he had then a sufficiency of both flour and whiaky, whence I concluded that his orders, whether pretended or real, were to seize my property only,—a measure which could not have even the countenance of the Board of War. The fact, in my opinion, is, that as I was by no means under his notice as a forestaller, &c^a, and provisions being in no wise scarce, it seems to have been in part dictated and set on foot by a petty Quarter Master of this place, by whom I have been insulted on account of my abhorrence of his conduct. Not long since I reced. a note from him in the following words,—“You are to take two men (waggoners) billeted on you.—Rob^t Patton, D. Q. M. G^l.—To Gen^l de Haas.” This I thought very extraordinary. I however absolutely refused it, well knowing that a Gent^l once honored with the title of General, can by no means have soldiers billeted on him—at least 'tis so in Europe. It may be this M^r Quarter Master has unusual authorities; indeed it seems so, or he would not dare to exchange horses, as tho' they were private property, or sell them otherwise than in a public manner. There are frequent instances of his seizing the property of individuals in a manner that appeared to me the most unwarrantable. If such powers are conferred on him I have nothing to say on that head, but I have a right to think as I please. And when I know that a man, who but a short time since had no property, is purchasing one plantation after another, and speaks of thirty or forty thousand pounds as but of a part of his estate, in my opinion his conduct as a public officer appears somewhat censurable. The above M^r Schaffner is a boy without a single good qualification, who, aided by others of his class, has more than once abused, and in a forceable manner taken the grain, cattle, &c^a, from the most reputable & honest farmers of the neighbourhood without any cause whatever. These things are too much winked at, and are of very great public injury. With respect to the seizure of my flour, I should be glad to have your answer. I

matter myself the Honble. Board will afford me such redress as I have a right to expect.

I have the honour to be &c^s,

J. P. DE HAAS.

(Copy.)

Directed,

The Honble R. Peters.

No. 2.

War Office, Februar 20th, 1779.

Dr Sir,

I received your Letter on the subject of certain seizures made of your property. I communicated it to the Board, in whose behalf I inform you that your letter was the first notice we had of the transaction. We gave no orders in the case, nor have we given any orders whatsoever for the seizure of any person's property by officers in any Department under our direction. We have communicated your letter both to the D. Comm^r of purchases, M^r Blaine, & to the A. Q. M. G^t, M^r Pettit, with our orders to examine into the complaint. M^r Pettit informs us he gave no orders, nor was it done in the Department, for the billeting of soldiers or waggoners; & M^r Blaine says the flour was taken by virtue of a general authority from the Executive Council of the State. Be assured that we shall encourage no officer in acts of oppression on any occasion; & as to the facts stated in your letter with respect to the Commissaries—if they have done wrong, you have your remedy against them. We wish the Laws of the State to have their full effect in all cases, nor is it our custom to give any orders which may in their consequences oppose them. If the Commissaries have acted contrary to the laws they are liable to punishment, but if agreeably to them, they will be justified. Our orders cannot be plead, for we gave none. We will on all occasions support and not infringe the rights of citizens, as we look upon our happiness and liberty intirely involved in theirs.

I am with great Regard,
your obed^t serv^t,

RICHARD PETERS,
in behalf of y^e Board.

(Copy.)

Directed,

To Gen^l De Haas.

JAMES DUNDAS ^{to} COUNCIL, 1779.Philadelphia, April 22^d, 1779.*May it please the Council,*

Agreeable to a verbal Order I yesterday received from your Secretary, I have the honour of inclosing to you a List of the Balances that appeared due to people employed on the Fortifications at Billingsport and Red Bank, (extracted from the Ledger,) amounting to £768 16 2½. But sundry applications for payment have been made to me at a time when I had no money but that called out of circulation, which they refusing to receive, went off, and as they were loose acc^{ts} not Credited in the Ledger, cannot exactly ascertain the amount, but believe with the above would make at least the sums I applied to your Hon^o Board for.

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,

Your most hum^o Serv^t,

JAMES DUNDAS.*

[Then follows the detailed account.]

Directed,

The Honourable the Supreme Executive Council.

LIEUTENANT GEORGE HENRY TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, April 22nd, 1779.

In consequence of your Order of the 11th of March, I have taken an Inventory of the Naval Stores now collected, a Copy of which is inclosed.†

The heavy Cannon that were at Trenton & Bordentown, I immediately sent for—they are now at the Factory in this City, mounting. The small arms are delivered to Captain Styles.

I am dayly finding the scattered Stores of the State, & will collect them as soon as possible.

I have the honor to be

your most obed^t & very humb^o serv^t,

GEORGE HENRY.

The Cannons brought from Trenton & Bordentown were seven, eighteen, & two, twenty-four pounders.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 756.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 756, 765.

MATTHEW GREGG TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To the Honourable the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

I have applied to Colonel Pettit for his opinion and Direction in what manner I am to have a Settlement of my Accounts & Pay for the time I have served the State as Waggon Master, and have Received his Answer thereto, as will appear to you by the enclosed. As I live a considerable distance from this City, and have came here for the sole purpose of obtaining a Settlement, I Request you will take the matter under your Consideration, and give such orders & Directions as to you may seem most proper.

I am Gentlemen,

with due respect,

your most obed^t hum^e serv^t,

MATTHEW GREGG.*

Philadelphia, 22d April, 1779.

Directed,

To the Honorable the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Indorsement.

Read in Council, April 22nd, 1779.

MATTHEW GREGG TO COLONEL PETTIT, 1779.

Philadelphia, 22nd April, 1779.

Sir,

I think proper to inform you that I was appointed Waggon Master for the County of Cumberland, by the Executive Council of this State, the ninth of January, 1778, and never have had any settlement of my Accounts or pay from that time—therefore request you will inform me what mode I am to pursue in order to have a settlement, and in so doing, you will much oblige

your very humble servant,

MATTHEW GREGG.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XL, p. 765.

I do not know of any Instance in which the County Waggon Masters of Pennsylvania have been paid by the Quarter Master General. They seem to be merely State Officers, appointed by & accountable for their Conduct to the State. How far their pay may be a proper charge against the United States, it may not be proper for me to determine, but I do not conceive the Quarter Master General is authorized to pay them in the first Instance.

CHARLES PETTIT, A. Q. M. G.

22nd April, 1779.

Directed,

To Colonel Charles Pettit, Present.

SECRETARY MATLACK TO WM. H. DRAYTON, 1779.

Sir,

The State Tracts came to hand. It was not the intention of Council to prevent the delegates of Congress from the use of the State Library, but so great a number of books being abroad, without any account of them, it became absolutely necessary to publish them, in order to call them in. I shall, without hesitation, at any time, send you any books you shall have reason for.

I am sir,

your most obedient servant,

T. M., Secretary.*

Thursday, April 22nd, 1779.

Directed,

To the Honorable W. H. Drayton, Esqr.

COUNCIL TO CHAS. PETIT, Q. M. G. 1779.

Sir,

The Council desire you will please to furnish two waggons to bring some arms and ammunition from Coryels ferry to this city—The arms and ammunition are the same which were sent to supply the militia appointed to conduct the Convention troops thro this state, and are therefore to be returned at Continental expence.

* See page 328.

bad Consequences. We could have wish'd your Excell^y had appointed a later Day, or we could have had earlier Notice. Your Letter is dated the 20th Inst., & was not received till the 22d, & considering the Distance of some of the Witnesses, we fear it will not be possible to give them Notice, much less to procure their Attendance, & we presume no ex parte Testimony ought to be received by the Court. Our view of the matter was, & it was so considered by the joint Committees, that we should transmit the Papers to your Excell^y, inform you of the Names of the Witnesses to prove the several Points—that then your Excell^y, either by your own Authority or that of Congress, would have procured the Attendance of the Witnesses. Two officers of Congress, not in any respect under our Control, are material Witnesses, of which we informed Congress, requesting they might not proceed to Carolina till their Testimony could be had. No Notice was taken of it, & they set off about a Week ago, & as we have Reason to think, with a View to be absent till the trial is over. Col. Fitzgerald, who is also a material Witness, we suppose is in Virginia. As substantial Justice, not a mere formality, is undoubtedly your Excell^y's object on this Occasion, we submit to your judgment whether a competent Time for the Attendance of these Witnesses, at least who are within Reach, & the Adjustment of some previous Points will not make a farther Day necessary. These Points are at whose Expence & by whose Procurement are the Witnesses to be had, and whether the service will not admit of the sitting of the Court at some nearer Place than Camp? if that cannot be, we must rely upon your Excell^y to give some Directions for the Accommodation of the Persons who may Attend in Behalf of the Prosecution. As the Idea expressed in your Excell^y's Letter does not correspond with the Resolve of Congress transmitted to us, & differs from that entertained by the joint Committee of Congress, Council & Assembly, in which it was expressly declared that this Board was not to be considered as a Party, we trust the Proceedings in the Business will conform to this Idea, otherwise, besides the Inconveniences above mentioned, we shall be liable to a Charge of Inconsistency not well founded.

We are Sir, with every sentiment of Respect & Regard,

Your most obed^t H^bble Serv^t,

JOS. REED.

P. S. By the Time this will reach your Excell^y there will remain but 3 Days, so that we shall be glad to have as early an Answer as possible, for we beg leave to assure you that no other Delay is sought but what is necessary to proceed to Business with Effect.

COUNCIL TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

Philada, April 24th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

The Council lately received the inclosed* Resolve from Congress, & as they wish to avoid all future Occasion of Uneasiness or Dispute, request to know whether the State of Pennsylvania is considered as a *separate Department* from the Command in Chief.

I am, Gent., respectfully,

Your Obed^t Hbbl. Ser.,T^y MATLACK, Sec^y.To Hon^{ble} Board of War.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

In Council, Philada., April 24th, 1779.

Gentlemen:

We received yours of yesterday,† & immediately directed two Militia Companies of Artillery to relieve the Detachment of Col. Proctor's Reg^t doing Duty at Billinsport & Mud Island. As the Militia has scarcely yet recovered the shock of Dispersion occasioned by the Enemy & the loss of Arms, Accoutrements, &c., it will be some Time before they will be prepared to go down, & we doubt not you will think with us that it is a matter of too much Importance to leave these Forts quite unguarded at this Season of the Year. We therefore hope Col. Proctor's People will not leave the Posts till the Militia go down, & you may depend upon our forwarding them as expeditiously as possible.

Gen. Washington assured the President at Camp, & has since repeated it in Letters, that Col. Rawlins's Reg^t was to march to Fort Pitt, & from thence to take such a Post for the Protection of the Frontiers as would best answer that Purpose. To this End he informs us he had thro' you address'd Gov. Johnson to order some Militia to relieve Rawlins's Reg^t then guarding British Prisoners at Fort Frederick. As these unhappy Borderers are much distressed, & have been made to expect this Assistance will be sent them, we must beg you to keep it in Memory, & if necessary renew the application to Gov. Johnson, a Request we think he will more readily comply with as the Militia of that State have borne an inconsiderable share of this burthensome service, when compared with most other States in the Union.

I am, very respectfully,

Gent., Your obed. &

very Hbbl. Serv.

* No resolution was found with this, and no date indicates the one referred to—the last rec'd is alluded to on page 827.

† See page 829.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, April 24, 1779.

Sir,

We have been honoured with your Letter on the Subject of the Militia to be sent to the Forts on the Delaware & Col. Rawlins's Regiment. Col. Proctor's Comp'ies shall remain as long as the Duty they are to proceed upon will possibly admit. We are deeply impress'd with the Necessity of a sufficient Force at those Posts to defend them at least against a sudden Enterprize. We have repeatedly express'd to Congress our Anxiety on this subject, & yesterday renewed our Request that something might be done in the Matter. The calling upon the militia should be avoided as much as possible, especially for service likely to be of long Continuance. In the present case, however, there is no other Resource, & as Col. Proctor's Companies cannot stay many Days, consistent with other Arrangements, we entreat that your Excellency & the Hon. Council will be pleased to stimulate the proper Officers to get the Relief of Militia in Readiness the soonest possible.

The supplies for Colonel Rawlins's regiment are gone from hence, some time ago, & he will be ready to march so soon as they arrive.* We were so anxious to expedite the march of this Regiment for the Relief of the Frontiers, that on Gov. Johnson's representing the Difficulties attending the raising the militia, we agreed that only a small Guard of a Lieut & 10 Men of the Militia should be stationed at Fort Frederick, & ordered the Commissary to suffer the Prisoners to go out among the Inhabitants as Labourers. We therefore conceive that every Impediment is removed, & that Council may depend upon what Assistance this small Regiment can afford the distress'd Inhabitants of the Frontiers.

We have the Honour to be,
with the greatest Respect,
Your very obed. Servants.

RICHARD PETERS,
By order.

Directed,

On public Service.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, President, &c., State of Pennsylvania.

War Office.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 758.

PRES. REED TO GEN. WASHINGTON, 1779.

Philad., April,* 1779.

Dear Sir,

I am to thank you for your Favour of the 19th Inst.,† & hope the State I am about to give of our Affairs will, in some Degree, answer to your Excell^ys Satisfaction the most important Parts of your Letter. As soon as I returned from Camp, Orders were issued for calling 250 Militia from the Inner Counties for the Protection of Bedford & Westmoreland, these Counties being much exposed, & having, as I suppose, at that Time, very little Expectations from Fort Pitt & its Neighbourhood. We also made the Appointments for the Corps of Rangers, which, at its full Complement, will be 380 Men. These are now recruiting, & we hope with considerable success; but we cannot flatter ourselves they will be complete by the 10th May. Nor from the Forms to be complied with in the Militia Law, do we suppose the Militia are more than prepared to march. If, therefore, as is mentioned in the last Clause of your Excell^ys Letter, the Co-operation of the Troops from Fort Pitt is laid aside, perhaps the Assistance intended by these Militia to Bedford & Westmoreland, may be given from Fort Pitt, & the Militia ordered to proceed to Sunbury directly. By this Means a body of Men may be had in Service, which otherwise we cannot expect. But, after the Assurance given these Counties of Protection from this Militia, we fear it would give great Disgust if we should change their Destination without supplying their Places. I mentioned in a former Letter, that the Inhabitants of Northumberland had raised 3 Companies, at their own Expence, of Forty Men each, which, I suppose, will be ready by the Time proposed. The Law does not allow of keeping the Militia out longer than 2 Months at one Time, nor have we the Power of prolonging it on any Pretence whatever. As to bringing their Arms, it will generally be impracticable; we must endeavor to supply them in some Way or other. Your Excell^y must recollect, that in 1776 & 1777, when the Militia were discharged, their Arms were ordered to be left; they have never been replaced, nor have the People had an Opp^y to procure new ones—hence, whenever the Militia are called upon there is a general & real Difficulty which we are endeavoring to supply as fast as possible; but unfortunately we have to combat a principle of Peculation too prevalent, that of carrying off the Arms when furnished by the publick, a Circumstance which keeps us very needy, & is attended with many bad Consequences. I should mislead your Excell^y if I promised a Term of Service longer

* The day is left blank, but is indorsed the 24th, and is probably one of the two referred to in the following letter of Gen. Washington as the 24th and 25th. See also page 381.

† Not found.

than 2 Months, & to call out the Militia of these Frontier Counties at this Time, would defeat one principal Benefit extended them, viz. : the giving them an Opp^r to sow & plant, without which they must leave their Teams for Want of Bread, be the Issue of the Expedition ever so successful.

We perfectly agree with your Excell^y in your Opinion of Gen. Potter, & shall most cheerfully put the Command of the Troops into his Hands from every Motive of Propriety & Confidence.

I am obliged to your Excell^y for your Communications respecting Flour. We have lately been applied to from Bermudas on the same Account; but we are very unwilling to listen to these Applications 'till a moral Certainty can be obtained of our Compliance not endangering the Army.

Gen. McIntosh is arrived in Town, but I have not had the Pleasure of seeing him, except once in the Street, & he was so much altered that I did not know him 'till he was past. We have been at a very great Expence in sending Stores of all kinds up to Fort Pitt, & as that Part of the Plan is altered which seemed to require a Collector of Troops there, I hope they may be used in some such Way as to check the temporary Ravages of the Indians—At least affording Westmoreland complete Protection.

I lately received the Letter of which the enclosed is a Copy, from Gen. Hand; if the Movement takes Place in the time ment^d in your Excell^y Letter, or near it, our Apprehensions for Northumberland will be removed; otherwise, I fully understood that his Detachment would be so stationed as to cover Wyoming & that Country, untill an offensive Movement should take Place, which was expected to offer the most effectual Protection.

No State has suffered so much upon its Frontiers as this has, & if the Depredations continue this Year, the present interior Parts will be the Frontier; and as we have so great a Portion of the Continental Burthen, both in Men & Service, your Excell^y will, I am sure, think with us, that we are entitled to a proportionate Attention. And we think it better to apprise your Excell^y now, that if any Dissatisfaction should appear afterwards, the Pennsylvania Troops are drawn off on each side, especially towards New York, which does so little for itself, & the Interval exposed. This is a Sentiment, not drawn from us by any Doubt or Distrust of an equal Protection being extended, as Times and Circumstances will admit, but by the Uneasiness expressed this Spring. Nor have we the least Idea of retaining Troops as stationary, unless the proposed Expedition should be laid aside, or some Accident occasion a Division of the Troops & a resuming of Stations, in which Case we rely fully upon your Justice & Judgment to dispose them so, as Times & Circumstances will admit, that equal Benefit may result to all, & Respect be had to the Abilities & Exertions of each State Exposed. Since writing the above, Gen. McIntosh has called upon me. I could have wished to have had a longer Conversation with him, but his Business calling him out of

Town very soon, I only had half an Hour of his Company. I hope he will be able to give your Excell^y a satisfactory Acc^t of the State of Things in that Quarter.

I am, with the greatest
Respect & Regard,
D^r Sir, your most
Obed^t & very
Habl. Sert.

Indorsement.

To His Excellency, General Washington, April 24, 1779.

PRES'T REED TO MCCLENACHAN AND IRWIN, 1779.

In Council,
Philadelphia, April 26th, 1779.

Gent^r,

Inclosed is a List of Stores in Mr Henrys Care, & as the Disbursements for the Ship must be unavoidably expensive, we request you to make Use of what Articles we already have, when they will by any Means answer our Purpose.

You will please to take a Copy & send us back the original.

Council last Saturday fixed the Pay & Privileges of the Officers of the Ship & Marines, (exclusive of the Prize Money) which they can have from the Sec^y, they are framed upon the Scale of Allowance to Continental Officers with a regard to the depreciated state of the Currency.*

We would desire you to recommend a 2^d Lieutenant to the Ship,† & a Master, & as there have been several Officers discharged from the service of the State, it is the Desire of Council that a Preference be given to them if of Abilities. Commodore Hazelwood, having been their superior Officer, may probably know of some deserving Officers.

We should be glad to know when you think the Ship will be ready for Sea.

The Captain of Marines has called upon us for recruiting Instructions & Money, the Ship Articles & the Resolutions of the Council will be necessary for him, & we have enclosed some further Instructions. As to Money for the Present he must apply to you, it being a Part of the Ships Disbursement.

I am, Gent.,
your obed. H^ble serv^t.

P. S. The Officer must take Commissions under the seal of the State—Doctor Hutchinson will recommend a Surgeon.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 757.

† Id. 758.

GEN. HAND TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Estherton, 26th April, 1779.

Sir,

I have been honoured by the rec^d of your Exo^ys letter of the 21st Instant. Your Ex^y has undoubtedly Misapprehended my letter of the 16th,* when I told you I could not pay a particular attention to Sunbury or the settlements in its Vicinity. I apprehended that the remoteness of Wyoming & Fort Jenkins might cause an uneasiness in the Minds of the Inhabitants nearer Sunbury—at that time I did not know of a Post being established at Muncy, & even that is so remote that I dread an uneasiness in the Breasts of the People from an Idea of Neglect, which your Ex^y can best remove by holding out the prospect of their remaining undisturbed whilst the above mentioned posts are occupied, (as there is certainly no intention of removing them at present) or by ordering Militia for their Better Security, if you deem it necessary. The Troops which march'd from Delaware lately, am^t to 332 Rank & File fit for duty. I do not yet know the Number on the Susquehanna before their arrival.

The Post at Wyoming is now strong, & it is intended it should continue so. The strength of Muncy or Fort Jenkins I dont know, the latter being immediately covered by Wyoming, is I believe, intended merely to keep open the Water communication. Should a Post be Established higher than Wyoming I think it will add to the Security of the Frontiers of Pennsylvania, & particularly Northampton County, which is at present as much exposed as any other Part of the State. There can be no doubt that the Commander in Chief wishes to afford every degree of Security to the Frontiers consistent with his ultimate views, which I make no doubt your Excell^y is acquainted with—and I can assure you I am influenced by the same principles. If any change be made in the present disposition of the Troops under my Command in conformity with my present or future Instructions, shall take the liberty of communicating it to your Exo^y—also any other occurrence worthy your attention.

I have the Honor to be Sir,

with much respect your Exo^ymost obed^t & most H^{ble} serv^t,

EDW. HAND.

P. S. I am glad your Exo^y has consulted the Commander in Chief, as thereby every doubt or misapprehension will be removed.

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Exo^y Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

* See page 321.

GEO. READING TO PRES'T REED, 1779.

Dear Sir,

From our former acquaintance I am the more emboldened to make free with you. Your letter of the 27th ult^o, I rec^d fr Col^o Jn^o Shields. I accordingly communicated it the inhabitants and used my best influence with them to stand their Ground, in consequence of which several staid here which otherwise would have gon in hopes of speedy relief, which is yet delayed. This day the Enemy made a breach upon us, killed one man, taken one prisoner, another man missing, two families living some distance from the Fort, not known what is become of them, we not having men sufficient at this post to send out, being reduced to a very few inhabitants, and but eight men and boys as a guard to the Fort. I am sorry to say that unless we have some speedy support and protection we shall be obliged to abandon this important Post, several of the inhabitants being entirely out of bread, must goe 40 or 50 miles for what is got, and pay a most exorbitant price for. We dread being blocked up in a few days, the Enemy appearing numerous, and of course our creatures all destroyed, if that should be the case our situation will be most distressing, our case is not agravated but rather mitigated.

By your Excellency's

most obed^t humble servant,

GEO. READING.

Fort Ligonier, April 26th, 1779.

*Directed,*His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r.

COUNCIL TO JOHN MITCHELL, 1779.

Sir,

Major Armstrong* has represented that the workmen at the fortifications on the river Delaware, under his direction in the absence of Col^o Bull, have occasion for the use of a pair of timber wheels for a few days. I am ordered by the Council to request that you will please to furnish him with one on his application for it.

I am respectfully, Sir,

your very humble servant,

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Philadelphia, April 27, 1779.

*Directed,*To John Mitchell, Esq^r, D. Q. M. G.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 759.

LT. SAML. HUNTER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Fort Augusta, 27th April, 1779.

Sir,

Yours of the 27th of last month, and the 14th Inst.,* with a sum of money I Rec^d, and likewise the appointments of Cap^t McIlhatten, Lieu^t Arthur & Dougherty, for Raising a Company for nine months. Arthur has declined serving, Captain McIlhatten & Dougherty is not come to the county, so that I do not know whether they will serve or not, but if they all decline serving, there may be others found in the County may answer the Ends intended.

I am Really sorry to inform you of our present Disturbances; not a day but there is some of the Enemy makes their appearances on our frontiers. On Sunday last, there was a party of the Savages attack'd the inhabitants that lived near Fort Jenkins, and had taken two or three families prisoners, but the Garrison being apprais'd of it, about thirty men turned out of the Fort and Rescued the Prisoners; the Indians Collecting themselves in a body, drove our men under Cover of the fort, with the loss of three men kill'd & four Badly Wounded; they burned several houses near the Fort, kill'd Cattle, & drove off a number of Horses. Yesterday, there was another party of indians, about thirty or forty, kill'd and took seven of our Militia, that was stationed at a little Fort near Muncy hill, call'd Fort Freeland; there was two or three of the inhabitants taken prisoners; among the latter is James McKnight, Esq^r, one of our Assemblymen; the same day a party of thirteen of the inhabitants that went to hunt their Horses, about four or five miles from Fort Muncy was fired upon by a large party of Indians, and all taken or killed Except one man. Captain Walker of the Continental troops, who commands at that post, turned out with thirty four men to the place he heard the firing, and found four men kill'd and scalped, and supposes they Captured y^e Remaind^r. This is the way our Frontiers is harassed by a cruel Savage Enemy, so that they cannot get any Spring crops in to induce them to stay in the County. I am afraid in a very short time we shall have no inhabitants above this place, unless when General Hand arrives here he may order some of the Troops at Wyoming down on our frontiers, as Coll. Hartley's Regiment, our two months men, and what Militia we can turn out, is Very inadequate to Guard our County. Suppose the few Virtuous inhabitants does all in their Power to maintain their Ground, yet all will not do without some more Assistance, till such times as y^e Expedition is Carry'd on.

I am certain Every thing is doing for our Relief, but is afraid it will be too late for this County, as its impossible to prevail on the inhabitants to make a stand, upon account of their Women and Childer. I am Reflected upon Very much by some of the inhabi-

* See page 316.

tants that has leatly sufered, for Assuring them of Relief very soon^{*} and to Endeavour to stand untill such times as the Expedition was Carry'd on against the Indian Towns. Our case is Really deplorable and alarming, as we are surrounded by a Cruel savage Enemy at this present time, and Our County on y^e Eve of breaking up, as I am informed at the time I am writeing this, by two or three Expresses that there is nothing to be seen but Disolation, fire & smoak, as the inhabitants is Collected at particular places, the Enemy burns all their Houses that they have evacuated.

I would beg leave to inform you we are at a loss for medicines in this County, for our poor Wounded men, and Doctor Benjamin Allison, who has always attended the Militia of this County, boath in the Camp & here, his Medicen is Consumed that he had of his own, and I am certain he never has been allowed any thing but his pay as Surgeon; he has leatly lost his case of Surgeons instruments, and there is none in this County; this I make mention of, as I do not know where to apply.

I am, Sr, your most Obed^t

Humb^t Serv^t,

SAML. HUNTER, Lieut N. C.

P. S.—as for further particular news, I Refer you to the Bearor hereof, Mr. James Hepburn.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philadelphia.

PRES'T REED TO PRES'T OF CONGRESS, 1779.

To Hn'ble John Jay, Esq., President of Congress.

In Council, Philad^e, April 27, 1779.

Sir,

It is with great Concern that this Board has been informed thro' the Delegates of the State that the Transactions respecting Gen^l Arnold are likely again to become the Subject of Discussions between Congress & the Authority of the State. We had flattered ourselves that such Explanations had been made, & such perfect Understanding subsisted as effectually relieved your Hon^l House from all future Trouble, & that no further Duty remained to this Board but to transmit to the military Court the Evidence upon those Articles which Congress had selected from our Resolves as proper Objects of Inquiry. As we shall cautiously avoid disturbing Congress with future Complaints, we trust we shall stand excused if we waste a

^{*} See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 785.

few Moments of your Time in stating the Facts accompanying the Proceedings of the late Conference, our Sense of the Transaction, & the Consequences which we apprehend will follow a Deviation from the Plan then apparently agreeable to all.

At the Conference held by the Committee of Congress & the joint Committee of the Council & Assembly diverse Instances were adduced to support the Representation made to Congress by the Council & Assembly on the Inst. to none of these any Answer was attempted to be given, save in the Affair of Gen^l Arnold. How far that was satisfactory every one will judge as he was affected by the Reasonings & Observations offered—we shall only permit ourselves to suggest that no Change of Sentiment was expressed in Consequence. In this View of Things the joint Committee of Council & Assembly proposed the Resolutions which have been since adopted without any Variation, except in that respecting Gen. Arnold, by which 3 Articles were selected as not proper for the Discussion of a military Court. These Propositions were cheerfully received by the Committee of your Hon^{ble} House, as forming a just & reasonable Ground of Accommodation, & all former Proceedings were considered as absorbed & dissolved in the subsequent. Our Anxiety to manifest a healing, conciliating Spirit induced us to submit to the Alterations made by Congress, tho' the Proposition was thereby less acceptable, but ever clothed with a perfect Understanding that farther Discussions were to cease in both Bodies.

With this Temper & View of the Subject the joint Committee was about to adopt the Resolves on their Part, when it was suggested that these Alterations at least left a Foundation for farther Discussion, which it would be best at all Events to remove, upon which 4 members from the joint Committee waited on the Committee of Congress & received from their Mouths a full & explicit assurance, that the proceedings of the former Committee were deemed & understood by Congress to be wholly superseded by the last Report, & no farther Regard would be had thereto. Satisfied with this Declaration, the joint Committee proceeded to close the Business on their Part. For the Truth of their Representation we beg Leave to appeal to the honourable Members of that Committee. From all which, speaking for ourselves & for the House of Assembly, we are justified in declaring that in this View & Understanding we adopted the Resolutions proposed, & transmitted them to your Hon. House, not contemplating in the most distant Manner a Revival of the Report, or any Part of it, so utterly repugnant to our Ideas of Justice & Propriety. Had it been the sense of your Hon. Body to adopt sentiments so derogatory to the Interests & Reputation of the Executive Council, we could have wished it had been openly & freely expressed; as we should then have been certainly excused from those Professions of Confidence, Veneration & Respect which must now give additional Force to any Imputation which may fall upon us. These sentiments we yet entertain & must entertain while

we hope and believe that tho' Truth, Sincerity & Honour were banished from all other Assemblies on Earth, they would be found within the Walls of Congress. And we trust that our honest but respectful Freedom will not be displeasing when we assure you that we foresee the most dangerous & disagreeable Consequences flowing from such a Procedure. Departing Friendship & Union seemed to be restored by this happy Coincidence of Sentim^t, & the common Enemy confounded with the Prospect; but will any one acquainted with human Nature say a second Breach can be thus easily closed, or what rational Hope can be formed of future Concord if the Bands of Trust & Confidence are thus burst asunder. The Freeman of Pennsylvania have clearly expressed their Opinion on this Occasion, & is that Opinion so light in the Eyes of the Representatives of the People as to be borne down by mere Sentiments of Pity & Tenderness.—For in Point of Justice & Propriety we can never relinquish our Right as a publick Body to express our Opinion of publick Men & Measures, accountable only to God & our Constituents for the proper & regular Exercise of it. And we cannot help expressing some surprise that a Right so frequently exercised in free Countries against wicked & oppressive Officers, and more especially in these States when Colonies of Great Britain, & which affords so salutary a Check to Abuses of Power, should be deem'd by any repugnant to Justice or the Interests of Society.—When exercised by the stern Patriots of America upon a Bernard, a Hutchinson, an Oliver, a Montague, or a Dummore, the faithful Historian records the Facts, but who can find a Censure upon the Procedure? Nor can we forbear reminding your Hon^r Body that the civil Authority of every State is deeply interested in the Mode of Decision adopted on this Occasion. For the supreme Authority of a State to submit in Silence to Insults & Injuries, or be obliged to to follow the Camp for Redress at whatever Distance or whatever Inconvenience, is the alternative to which civil Government is thus reduced. We beg leave to ask how are unwilling Witnesses to be compelled, or distant ones induced to attend—who is to support the Expence of thus obtaining Justice when the Army is far removed—or what Probability is there in such cases that Tryals will prove more than mere Formalities, which will serve to confirm & encourage Guilt. Would your Hon^r Body wish to see the several Governours, Councils & Assemblies of the States in Union travelling from one Part of this vast Continent to another to attend Court Martials, subjected to all the Dangers & Diseases of a Camp, & their Duties at Home neglected? Or does any one acquainted with military Men suppose they will view with Anxiety or punish with severity Insults & Indignities offered by themselves to civil Magistrates. Our own Experience & the History of Mankind shows the Reverse. But it may be asked how will Justice be done the Individual? we answer the Practice of Mankind points out the Way. When any publick Body or individual seeks to inflict military Punishment they submit

to the Forms of military Law, & yield to the Inconveniencies, be what they may. But when no such Punishment is sought or Complaint made to supreme Authority, when a bare Opinion is promulgated to the World, with what Justice or Propriety can any Superior Power compel a Prosecution under every degrading & injurious Inconvenience, or stop the Voice of just & publick Censure. Yet such is our Case, & such must be the Case of every State in the Union if insulted & oppressed it manifests its sense of the Oppression, & the Delinquent availing himself of Times and Circumstances can force the empty Exhibition of a mock Tryal.—We offer these Observations not as suggesting any Alteration in the Mode proposed in the present Case. We have the Proof we think necessary, & in a reasonable Time will exhibit it—on the Points your Resolution suggests. But we do not hesitate to say that we never intend to make any Court Martial on Earth Judges between us & military Officers but when we seek the Infliction of military Punishment. If it is our Misfortune again to meet with Insult & Indignities from military Characters we shall never make them y^e subject of Discussion in a Court Martial, if we are not competent to our own Vindication we will endeavour to bear them patiently.

We trust we have not expressed Sentiments capable of giving Offence to any; they are extorted from us by a melancholy Prospect of perpetuated Disunion between this & the other United States, if the late Resolves do not speak the genuine Sense of Congress—there we were assured that Congress deeply regretted every Event which had a Tendency to lessen the Affection & Harmony which ought to subsist between us.—We confess ourselves anxious to preserve & perpetuate them, & shall endeavour to manifest this Temper on all Occasions; but if the Reputation of the Authority of the State & the Honour of our Government must be sacrificed to any Thing less than the essential Interests of America we must make the reluctant Struggle, submitting to the impartial World, & particularly the wise & good in our Sister States, that as we did not seek an Interruption of Harmony we have omitted nothing to restore it—that we deprecate it as an Evil & lament it as a misfortune. With these sentiments I beg leave to subscribe myself in Behalf of the Council,

Sir, Your most obed.

& very Hbble Serv^t.*

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 759.

GEN'L WASHINGTON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Head Q^r, Middle Brook,

27 April, 1779.

Sir,

In a line of yesterday, as I did not think it proper to detain the express & delay the notice then given till I could prepare a more explicit answer, I only briefly acknowledged the receipt of your two letters in Council of the 24th and 25th inst, to which I should have added that of the 26th.—I am now to enter into a *particular* consideration of their contents, and to offer such explanation as may seem necessary, to satisfy any doubts which the honorable the Council may entertain on the subjects they respectively discuss.

The first relates wholly to the trial of Maj^r Gen^l Arnold.—It is with concern I observe that the Council appear to have misconceived the intention of the notification contained in my letter of the 20th*—and to imagine that I had taken the matter in a different point of view from that in w^h it is considered by Congress and by themselves;—placing them in the light of a party in the prosecution.—I flatter myself on a revival of my letter on the resolve of Congress on which it is founded this opinion will be readily retracted.—The resolve of which the inclosed is a copy, directs me to appoint “a court martial for the trial of General Arnold, on the “first second third and fifth articles contained in the resolves of the “executive Council of Pennsylvania, & to notify them of it with a “request that they would furnish the evidence to the Court.” My letter was intended as a simple compliance with this order, and accordingly informs that I had directed a court to be held at this place on the first of May next, for the trial of Maj^r Gen^l Arnold, on the 1st 2^d 3^d & 5th charges exhibited against him by the Council, requesting that they would be pleased to furnish the court at the appointed time with the proper evidence in support of the charges. The terms of this letter were such as, in common speaking, naturally presented themselves to express what was intended; because the charges there said to be exhibited by the Council, though in their present form, they are instituted by the authority of Congress originated in the resolves of Council, of which they compose a part. But if they contain any ambiguity, or seem to imply more than those of the resolve, it is entirely to be ascribed to inadvertency and to a want of precision.—It will easily be seen that they could not be meant to convey the idea supposed, when it is recollected to be a fundamental maxim in our Military trials, that the Judge advocate prosecutes in the name and in behalf of the United States.—But, as it is customary and reasonable, for those who exhibit information on which charges are founded to produce or point out the

* See page 327.

witnesses necessary to support them, and enable public justice to operate; on this principle, I presume Congress directed the notification which has been made; and in the same spirit, it was my intention to convey it.—Further than this, I had no idea of considering the Council as a party.

My motives for appointing the trial to take place at so short a period were these.—The season is fast advancing when we shall be under a necessity of taking the field; and as it is at most times very inconvenient (in the present state of the army impracticable) to spare a sufficient number of officers of high rank to compose a Court at a distance from Camp, and almost equally so to be carrying on a long and perhaps complicated trial in the midst of the operations of a campaign, it was my wish to bring it on at once, in hopes it might be concluded before they began.—This was one reason, and to me a weighty one.—another was, that General Arnold had written to me in a very pressing manner, requesting the trial might commence as soon as possible.—Uninformed of the particular circumstances which might require delay, & considering it as my duty to accelerate the execution of justice as well to the public in case of real guilt as to the individual if innocent; I could have no objection to complying with his request.—As the affair had been a considerable time in agitation, & I took it for granted the Council were acquainted with the order of Congress for appointing a Court.—I concluded the witnesses would be prepared, and that little time was necessary to collect them. The remoteness of the persons alluded to—I could not foresee.—The affair of the two officers is entirely new to me—nor did it ever occur to my mind as probable, that the Gentlemen, whom I conjecture to be hinted at, were intended to be summoned as witnesses on the side of the prosecution.—

I can assure the Council, with the greatest truth, that “substantial justice not a mere formality will undoubtedly be my object “on this occasion.” I shall endeavour to act and I wish to be considered, merely as a public executive officer alike unbiassed by personal favour or resentment, and having no other end in view than a faithful, ingenuous discharge of his duty.—To obviate the remotest appearance of a different disposition, as well as to give the freest operation to truth—I have determined to defer the trial till the 1st of June if it is thought the most material witnesses can be produced by that time, or till the 1st of July, if it is deemed necessary to wait the arrival of the two officers from Carolina. I am therefore to request of the Council information on this head, and that they will be pleased to point out without delay the persons who are to be called upon as witnesses in the affair.—Where my authority will produce their attendance, it is my duty to exercise it—where I have no right to order, I can only request; but where any citizens of the State of Pennsylvania are concerned, I doubt not the Council will employ its influence and authority to induce their appearance.

As to the officers who may compose the Court Martial, I trust the respectability of their characters will put their honor and impartiality out of the reach of suspicion.—

The expence of witnesses, as the prosecution is in behalf of the United States I take it for granted will be borne by them.—Whether it will be possible for the court to sit at or near Philadelphia depends upon circumstances which cannot now be foreseen—at this time it could not by any means be done, if it can be done hereafter, without prejudice to the service, it will be very agreeable to me.—The mode of conducting the trial will be strictly conformable to the orders of Congress, and to the sentiments I have now expressed; and I hope will not be thought in any degree to deviate from the respect due to the Council.

It gives me much pain to find by your letter of the 26th, that there is not a better prospect of aid from the militia of your state in the intended Indian expedition.—The drawing out the militia into service will no doubt interfere with the culture of the lands, and it were to be wished it could be avoided. But the reduced state of our Regiments and the little apparent probability of augmenting them will not allow me to prosecute a vigorous offensive operation to the westward, wholly with Continental Troops, without weakening the main army so much as to put every thing to the hazard this way.—Influenced by considerations of this nature I applied to your state for six hundred men—to New York for an indeterminate number (to be employed on the frontier also) which has voted 1000,—and to New Jersey to replace as far as was thought proper the Continental Troops now stationed on the coast which will of necessity be withdrawn.—If these applications have not the desired effect, bad as the consequences may be, I can only wish what I am unable to accomplish and regret that it is not in my power to prevent.—

Notwithstanding the cautious terms in which the idea is conveyed, I beg leave to express my sensibility to the suggestion contained, not only in your letter of the 25th, but in a former one of the , that the frontier of Pennsylvania is left unguarded and exposed, while that of some other States is covered and protected.—Nor can I be less affected by the manner of the application for stationary Troops, in case the proposed expedition should be laid aside;—an event which I could hardly have thought supposeable.—I am not conscious of the least partiality to one state, or neglect of another.—If any one have cause to complain of the latter it is Virginia, whose wide extended frontier has had no cover but from Troops more immediately beneficial to the South-western parts of Pennsylvania; which besides this has had its Northern frontier covered by Spencer's, Pulaski's, and Ormand's Corps—its middle by Hartley's and some independent Companies.—That these Troops were unequal to the task is not to be denied—nor that a greater number was sent at the close of last campaign to the western frontier of New

York.—But, for the first the scantiness of our means is a sufficient reason. If the abilities and resources of the States cannot furnish a more competent force, assailable as we are on all sides, they will surely be more just than to expect from the army, protection at every point.—As to the last, these troops were not sent to be stationary.—The repeated acc^t transmitted by Congress and received from other quarters of the ravages actually committed, and the still greater threatened upon the western frontier of that state, occasioned by so considerable a detachment, with a view to some offensive operations in the winter.—But these through unforeseen impediments we were obliged to lay aside—all these troops, except the garrison of Fort Schuyler, are now destined for the Indian expedition, and are preparing for it.—I have been thus particular from a scrupulous desire to show, that no part of my conduct indicates a predilection to one state more than to another; but that, as far as the means in my hands will extend, I aim equally at the security and welfare of all.—This is only to be obtained by vigorous exertions; and in the present case, these must depend on the aid which the States most interested will give.

I am sorry for the difficulty, that occurs on the score of arms for the militia.—Unfortunately the continental arsenals from the returns I have seen are so empty, that if a part were to be spared from them, there would not remain a sufficiency for the few recruits we may expect to receive.

The hurry in which I am often obliged to write letters will sometimes not allow them to be as full and explicit as might wished.—But besides the reasons assigned in my last for relinquishing the idea of a co-operation from Fort Pitt, according to the original Plan—the uncertainty of timing it well and a want of sufficient information of the country, through which they w^d have to pass—I might have added another, which had no small influence in the determination.—I found by my acc^t from that quarter, that the removal of these Troops, would not only uncover the part of the Country where they now are, but add confidence to the western Indians, already too much inclined to hostility, & expose our affairs there to the most disagreeable consequences.—

General hand is only gone forward as an advanced Corps to establish Posts, form magazines and prepare the way for Troops that will follow.—this explains his letter.—

If the Militia cannot be had for a longer term than two months, they must be posted on the communication between Sunbury & the operating Troops, & be relieved by others, at the expiration of their term of service.—Upon the whole, it will make a most essential difference in our measures whether the aid of militia which I have requested, be furnished or not; and I cannot forbear expressing, in the most urgent manner, my wish, that the state may find it practicable to comply.—

The Council are pleased to intimate an application from Bermudas

for a supply of flour—I am glad to find they do not seem disposed to comply with it.—in my opinion it can not be done without serious injury to the service.—not only we appear to want all that article which the country can spare for our own use but by withholding it from the enemy, we shall distress their privateers, which are the bane of our commerce, not a little.—this I have reason to believe from the best authority has already happened from the embargo's which have been laid upon that article; and it would hardly be politic to remove the difficulty.—no doubt a great part of what might be furnished would be applied in this way.—Besides these considerations, by withholding a supply, we throw many additional mouths upon the Enemy's magazines, and increase proportionably their distress—they will not—they cannot let their people starve.—

With great esteem & respect

I am Sir,

y^r most Obed^t H Serv^t

G^d WASHINGTON.*

Directed,

His Excell^y Jos^s Reed, Esq^r, Presid^t Pens^a.

GENERAL ST. CLAIR TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Millstone, April 27th, 1779.

Sir,

I must take the Liberty to mention to you once more the subject of the recruiting Accounts, the Uneasiness of the Soldiers, on account of their Bountys not having been paid them, is very great, and Desertion becomes frequent. I believe chiefly owing to that Cause. I beg, Sir, that some Method may be fallen upon to remove it. I do, indeed, suspect that part of the Money is in the Hands of the Officers, but no steps can be taken to draw it out until a Settlement is made, as they all make the Pretence that they could not receive the Necessary Sums to pay the Bountys up. If the Council do not think proper to transmit the Accounts to Camp (where they could be well settled by a Board of Field Officers) I wish a Sum of Money might be sent at all Events, to make the Men easy, and the officers must

* This letter which occupies ten full pages of foolscap, is entirely the General's own manuscript—and (with the exception of a short letter of a subsequent period) is, we believe, the only entire letter written by himself that we have found. This is in a remarkably fair hand, and throughout the whole there occurs but a single interlineation (which is italicized in the 5th line) and not an erasure of one word. This interesting document, from frequent examination by the curious was nearly torn in pieces.

go to Philadelphia, but that will be attended with an Expence they cannot well bear.

I did myself the Honour to write to you some Time ago about the Recruiting, but have not yet had any Answer. The time limited for the Return of Officers on furlough is at hand, and we shall then be able to spare some for that Service, if it is thought advisable to send them into the Country.

I have enclosed an Act of the Justices of Northumberland, in consequence of which they discharged a Man who was apprehend as a Deserter. It appears to me this was a Matter with which they had no Business, and they had no manner of Evidence but the Man's own Oath. If such Methods are taken by the Magistrates it is in vain to send after Deserters. I do not know whether it can be done or not, if it can, legally, they should be ordered to send the Man on to Camp, where his allegations would be tried before a Court Martial. In the Goal of the same County, Alexander Craig, a Soldier in the 8d Regiment, who has been punished for Felony, is detained for the Fine. Will your Excellency be pleased to give Order for his Dismission?

I congratulate your Excellency upon the Success of our little Fleet. It is a most fortunate stroke, as it must disapoint the Enemy a good deal, particularly in equipping a Corps of Horse, and will raise a Spirit that will lead to greater and more decisive Action. The Ennemy's Fleet on the Southern Coast is absolutely in their Power. Should that fall into their Hands the Conquest of Georgia would vanish like the Dreams of the Morning.

I have the Honour to be

Your Excellency's most obedient,

Humble Servant,

A^r. ST. CLAIR.*

Directed,

Public Service.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI. p. 762.

WM. McCLAY TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Sunbury, April 27th, 1779.

Sir,

As a Multitude of Letters will pour in upon you by this Express, I shall not enter into particulars, respecting the miserable situation of this County; let it suffice to say that almost every Hour for Three days past, we have had fresh alarms of the Enemy. Massacres and Depredations have been committed at Wioming, Fort Jenkins, Fishing Creek, Freeland's Mill, Fort Muncy and Loyal Sock, almost at one and the same Time. We expect every moment to hear of their nearer approach. The whole Force of the Six Nations seems to be poured down upon Us. How long we will be able to bear up under such complicated and Severe attacks, God only knows. I much fear that the spring Crops will be lost, so That, in all probability, want of bread will be added to our other Calamities. The General Cry up here is for more Men to protect the Inhabitants; I, however, believe the most effectual way of taking off the Indians will be to carry an Expedition immediately into their Country. General Washington's whole Army would not effectually secure our extended and thinly settled Frontier.

I have sustained some Ridicule for a Scheme which I have long recommended, Vix., that of hunting the Scalping Parties of Indians with Horsemen & Dogs. The imminent Services which Dogs have rendered to our People in some late instances, seem to open People's Eyes to a Method of this kind. We know that Dogs will follow them, that they will discover them and even seize them, when hunted on by their Masters.

History informs us That it was in this Manner That the Indiana were extirpated out of whole Countrys in South America. It may be objected That we have not proper Dogs. It is true that every new thing must be learned; But we have, even now, Dogs that will follow them, and the arrantest Cur will both follow and fight in Company. I cannot help being of opinion that a Single Troop of Light Horse, attended by Dogs, (and who might occasionally carry a footman behind them, that the pursuit might not be interrupted by Morasses or Mountains,) under honest and active officers, would destroy more Indians than five thousand Men stationed in forts along the Frontiers; I am not altogether singular in this opinion, could not such a Thing be tryed?

If you have Liesure I would be glad to receive a Line from you. It will find me at this Place, unless Times grow very bad indeed.

I am, Sir, with great Regard,
Y^r very H^{ble} Serv^t,

WM. McCLAY.

*Directed,—Public Service.**Timothy Matlack, Esq., Secretary to the Hon^{ble} Executive Council of Pennsylvania.**By Express.*

CAPTAIN JOSEPH STILES TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To the honorable, the president of the Executive Council.

Sir,

In conformity to a verbal order of Council, I directed Mr. Honey to make six hundred Cartooch boxes for the use of the State, he has applied to me for Five hundred pounds to be advanced to him to enable him to perform his agreement, & this application is for said sum.

I am, Sir, your very humble Serv^t,

JOSEPH STILES,
Com. Mil. Stores.*

April 28th, 1779.

LEWIS NICOLA TO COUNCIL, 1779.

April 29th, 1779.

Sr,

By Directions from Genl. Wayne, with the approbation of the President & Board of War, the Invalid Regiment was appointed to recruit in this city & its neighborhood for the Pennsylvania line, but his Excellency informing me there was not any money in the Treasury for this purpose, I applied to the Board of War, who advanced two thousand Dollars on condition I should repay it when I receive money from the State; with this I have been enabled to raise 10 men, and am directed by the Board of War to apply to the State for a further supply. As the beginning of the campaign approaches fast, no time should be lost in completing the regiments, particularly as a report that the militia is soon to be called out appears an inducement to several men to enlist.

In case the Treasury cannot advance the necessary funds immediately, if authorised thereto I believe I can obtain more money from the Board of War, on a promise of repaying it; I request of

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 760.

you to represent this matter to his Excellency & the Council, & inform me of their pleasure, which will much oblige,

Sr,

Your most obed^t Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA, Col. Inv.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq^r, Secretary to the Hon^{le} Executive Council.

Indorsed,

Read April 30, 1779. Referred for a further supply to Board of War.
T. M., Sec'y.

M. JENNINGS TO COUNCIL, 1779.

April 29th, 1779.

May it please the Hon^{ble} Council,

Being in great distress for Want of Cloathing, of which I have received none since the War, & being stationed in a Regiment that is detached from the Army to the North Western Frontiers, I must beg the Favor of the Hon^{ble} Council to grant me an Order for some Cloth & Linen; the Compliance will be gratefully acknowledged by their

Very humble Servant,

M. JENNINGS, Surg^t,

11th Penn^a Reg^t.

Directed,

To the Hon^{ble} the Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

PRES. REED TO COL. WM. HENRY, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, April 30th, 1779.

Sir,

I have considered the Militia-Laws respecting the summoning a Court Martial for the Tryal of the Delinquents while in actual service in the year 1777, and am clearly of opinion that the supplement to the Act dated the 19th June, 1777, from which the enclosed Extract is made, directs that the Court shall be called by the command-

ing Officer of the Troops in the Field where the Delinquency happened, & that to him also belongs the Approbation of the Sentence. In the present Case the Militia were in actual Continental Service, under the Command of Major Gen. Armstrong, who being on the spot may very properly exercise the Power vested in him by the Law. If it will expedite the Business, I will have a proper Warrant made out for the General to sign. And I beg that the Matter may receive all possible Despatch.

I am, Sir,

Your obed. Hbble. Serv.

To Col. W. Henry, Lieutenant, of the City of Philad.

SEC. MATLACK TO JAMES CLAYPOOLE, 1779.

Sir,

The Council resumed the consideration of the Petitions in favour of George Harding, and, last evening, after mature deliberation, finally dismissed them. You will therefore inform the prisoner of his fate, and take your measures for the execution of the warrant delivered to you.

I am, with due respect,

Your Friend & humble Servant,

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

April 30, 1779.

To James Claypoole, Esq^r, Sheriff, &c.

PETITION OF INHABITANTS OF NORTHAMPTON Co., 1779.

The Pettion of the enhabitants of Cheesnuthill, Tomension And Penntownship, Northampton County, to his Excellency, The President & Councell of the State of Pennsylvania, Humbly Sheweth,

Whereas, we are now becom the fronteers of this commonwelth in these parts, & there is nothing to save us from the cruelty of the Savages but a chain of mountains, & swamps that can only Be crossed at certain places; and as numbers of families are now Moved & more preparing to fly; The Constitutional Society of the Forth Battalion of the above said County, of which we are the fronteers, & Pentownship the fronteers of the third Battalion, has Recommened to us a spy gard, with the aprobation of councill, to watch At these pases where

the enemy must com in order to quiet the Minds of the People, if possible, with the number of five men on each Path, under the direction of the nearest field officer; & as such spy Gards may be of the greatest importance and Trust, we earnestly Entreat to have the apointment of the men that is to serve, as We see daly to our greef & sorrow the toryes assembling in private Places, & begin to teel us, that sooner or later we will share the Same fate with Wyoming; and as several persons is com back from William Thomas, the refugee Captain that went from this neighbourhood, Or from the savages as we suppose, we beg a list of said Thomases Muster role may be sent to the next suprem or Court of oranterminer that is held for said County, with the States' attorney or Judges, & we will have Them there. & we also beg, that at the same time a particular enquirey may be made concerning a certain Henry Burney & John Shearrer That was aprehanded by our Melittia as spyes: & as the Geoal in Easton Was then some part of it kept for a Garde house, and the delivered to said Garde, & being dismissed getting pases to carry them to Sasquehannah Without taking aney bail or main prise, which they were sent bacagain untill the were held to bail, or dealt with according to law. Likewise Robert Alexander & Josiah Pell was both Held to answer deomber Court, 1778, and so continued untill March term next ensueing for treachers; & since the said Pell is gon to the enemy, and neither of their names being called in Court, we want to know the Reasons. By being warned by the Honourable Executive Cowsyl of this commonwealth to Get and keep in readiness To appose our cruel & invetred enemyes, We must beg leave to inform you, That the warr path & nesquepack both comes together at Ganahthonbution, in pen township, oposite to fort Allen, by Lehi in temensintownshp; and as the join the river Sasquehannah 15 or 20 miles Apart, we desire that the officer of the spy Gard may keep up an entelligence weekly, if possible, with fort Jenkins or Wyoming fort, and if it can Discovered that the enemy is aproaching, an express to be sent Emedately to the County Leivftennat to reinforce them; or if a number of Minute men could be gott to engage that Heves close on the fronteer, under some particular officer, should be ready, provided with arms, to make head against The enemy untill the Melittia could be imbodyed. We earnestly & sincerely Desire the Honourable Presedent & Cowsill to take the premises into A seariously consideration, & grant us such relief as may in your wisdoms seem best. As we are in duty bound shall ever pray.

May 1st, 1779.

John Dunn
Nicholas Kean, L. Col.

Henry Rowman.
Enoch Been, Capt.

and others. (German signatures.)

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M., TO SEC. MATLACK, 1779.

May 1st, 1779.

S^r,

I received orders last night from the Board of war to prepare the old library in the west wing of the State house for the reception of 12 or 15 Indians daily expected in town. As I am ignorant who keeps the key, your information by the bearer will much oblige,

S^r, Your most

obed^t Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.*

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq^r, Secretary to the Hon^{ble} Executive Council.

LT. COL. ARCHIBALD LOCHRY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Hannastown, May 1st, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter concerning our Forlorn Frontiers, and we are happy to hear Council intend to afford us assistance in the day of calamity and distress.

Previous to the arrival of your Excellency's Letter, the Inhabitants, with the approbation of General M^cIntosh, fell upon a mode to raise two Companies immediately. These Companies are nearly compleat, and as the appointment of the officers was left to myself, I transmit you a list of them, and I trust Council will put them on an equal footing as the other temporary troops expected here.

The Savages are continually making depredations among us; not less than forty people have been killed, wounded or captivated this Spring, and the Enemy have killed our Creatures within three hundred yards of this Town.

You desire sir, in your letter, if the Inhabitants on the Frontiers would desire a reward on Indian scalps.—I have consulted with a number on this head, who all seem of opinion that a reward for scalps would be of excellent use at this time, and would give spirit and alacrity to our young men, and make it their Interest to be constantly on the scout.

A threatening Cloud seems hanging over our heads—a few days ago the Savages surrounded Fort Mifflin, and in general, they come

* See page 364.

against us in such large bodies that it is almost in vain to make head against them.

I have nothing further to mention to your Excellency. I beg leave to recommend our distressed situation to the serious attention of Council, and to assure your Excellency that I am with the greatest respect and reverence,

your most obedient,

humble servant,

A. LOCHRY, C. L.

Officers names—

Michael Huffnagle, Esqr., Major.

1st Company.

Matthew Jack, Captain.

Wm. Guthery, Lieutenant.

George Owry, Ensign.

2nd Company.

Nehemiah Stokely, Captain.

John Brandon, Lieutenant.

Thomas Stokeley, Ensign.

The Bearer brings this as an express. I could wish he may be allowed such usual sum as is commonly given to Expresses, and should Council approve of the two Companies raised by the people, it will be necessary to send us a supply of money for their Bounty, as it morally impossible to keep them in actual service without that necessary article. I had forgot to mention to your Excellency that a great number of our public arms have fell into the hands of the Enemy, and what we have, are so much out of repairs that it will be of the utmost use to furnish the County with a set of tools to put them in order, as nothing of kind can be got here. I could wish to hear from your Excellency, and that you will send the officer's Commissions by the Bearer.*

Directed,

(On Public Service.) To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania. By Express.

LT. COL. ARCHIBALD LOCHRY TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Hannastown, May 1st, 1779.

May it please your Excellency & Honors.

I beg leave to transmit to the Council the opinion of a Meeting of the Frontier Inhabitants. I earnestly wish success to their application to be put under pay and Rations, and that the Council

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 778.

will take our deplorable situation into Consideration, and to afford us such relief as they in their wisdom shall seem meet.

I have the honor to be,

your Excellencys & the Councils

most obedient humble servant,

A. LOCHRY, C. L.

Directed,

(On public service.) The Honorable the Supream Executive Council of Pennsylvania. ~~By~~ Express.

SECRETARY MATLACK TO LEWIS NICOLA, 1779.

Sir,

I layed your application for the keys of the Library room before the Council, who are of opinion that it will not be proper in present circumstances, to place the Indians there for various reasons. The lower room of the West wing has been the Secretary's office from the first building of the State House to this day, and I cannot consent to give it up but in some case of real necessity.

I am respectfully,

your very hu'ble servant,

T. M., Sec^y.

May 1, 1779.

Directed,

To Colonel Nicola.*

McCLENACHAN AND IRWIN TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 3rd May, 1779.

Sir,

Your Excellency's fav^r of 26th† ultim^o we duly received. Inclosed you have the list of Stores in Mr. Henry's care—we shan't purchase any articles that he has, and you may also be assured that we shall run the State to as little expence as we can, but at present it requires enormous sums to equip a vessell, particularly one that is solely intended for War.

Mr. DeHart was appointed Lieutenant‡ when the ship was first laid on the stocks; he has also had the promise of the second Lieutenantcy from Cap^m Montgomery and ourselves, we therefore

* See page 832.

† Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 766.

‡ See page 343.

request he may be continued. Mr. Hollingshead, who has been in the State service since the commencement of the War, we take the liberty of recommending as Master.

Nothing now detains the ship but want of men; we expect she will get her Compliment in a Week or Ten days, before which, the officers will wait of your Excellency for their Commissions.

We shall supply Capt^m Montgomery and Caldwell with such sums as may be necessary.

We are Sir,

your Excellencys most

obed^t hum^{ble} Serv^t,

MATTHEW IRWIN,

for B. M'Clenachan & Self.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, 3d May, 1779.

Resolved,

That the President and Council of the State of Pennsylvania be requested to order such of the Militia of that State, to take post at fort Mifflin and Billingsport in the room of Colonel Proctor's men, as shall be judged by the said President & Council sufficient. The said Militia to be allowed continental pay & subsistence.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec.*

Directed,

To President and Council of Pennsylvania.

GEORGE HENRY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, May 3d, 1779.

Sir,

I have the Honor to enclose you an acc^t of the Sales of the Tools &ca., of the state Gun Factory, with a particular Inventory of the same.—

I think it my Duty to acquaint your Excellency, that Mr. Peter Dehaven (who had the management of the Factory) render'd me

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XL, p. 766.

every assistance in his power, & thro' the whole of this business, has evidenced a strong attachment to the Interest of this State.

I have the Honor to be

your most Obed^t

& very Humble Serv^t

GEORGE HENRY.*

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

SECY. MATLACK TO GENL. DU PORTAIL, 1779.

Sir,

I am directed by his Excellency the President, to inform you that the bearer Col. John Bull is the officer to whom is committed the execution of the works at Billingsport, and he waits on you for direction therein, which you will please to communicate to him with full confidence.

May 4, 1779.

Directed,

To Gen^l Du Portail, Present.

LT. COL. ADAM HUBLEY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Millstone Camp,

May 4th, 1779.

Sir,

Some time since, the eleventh Penn^a Regiment became vacant by the resignation of Col. Hartley. As eldest Lieut Col. in the line, I claim the same. I some days since wrote to Col. Humpton on the subject, and desired he would apply in behalf of me.

He informs me, he consulted your Excellency on this matter, and that you gave your oppinion, I should procure a certificate from Gen. St. Clair as com^s Officer of the line certifying my pretentions, and that your Excell^y would then procure my Commission.

I have herewith sent a certificate which I hope will be satisfac-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XL, p. 764.

tory, and beg your Excellency will take such steps in my behalf as you shall think proper.

I have the honor to subscribe myself
your Excell^{ty} most Ob^d hum^l servt

AD^l HUBLEY, Jr., L. Colo.*

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, Presid^t of the supreme
Execu^{ve} Council of Penn^a, Phi^a!

This is to certify that Colonell Hubley is the eldest Lieutenant Colonell in the Troops of the State of Pennsylvania, and entitled to a Regiment in consequence of the Resignation of Colonell Hartley.

A^r. S^t. CLAIR, Maj^r Gen^l.

May 4th, 1779.

COL. RICH'D MCCALESTER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

May 4th, 1779.

Sir,

in obedience to y^r Excellencies orders of the 30th of March, which came to hand the 7th of April, I called on the Class first in the tower of duty and appointed a day of Randevoye, the people met Accordingly, but in the interom the frost happened which hath Killed the Greatest part of the Ry, and much Wheat. Many are Now Mowing their whole crops of Ry to plant Corn in the fields, & many of the fields Lay so flat that they even cant be Mowed. I have been Ever since the orders Employed, but to no Purpose; they complain should they Goo from there farms at this time, they are Ruined, as they are indeavouring to put in Spring Crops, & to save themselves & Creatures from perishing. They seem all Exceeding willing to hier the young men to Goo, was there a law for so doing, and to pay fines under those Curcomstances as large as the Present law directa will also be Distressing, and I am afraid will be hard to be don, as Maney lost there Crops Last year by the hail, and now by the frost they are Redused to Grate want. The 100 men Ment^d in the orders could be Raised in a few days, could the

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., pp. 770.

Law be dispensed w^t, which I shall not pretend to do, but wish sincerely there had Never been any Particular Number, such as one or two hundred Men^d; but called by the Class the people imagin that it is money more than Men that is wanting, and that Either the Hon. the Council or myself Pocket the Money—its often cast up to Me. I have at this time called on the Class, as I Durst not tell the orders was for one 100 men, as I had no Method to take the 100 out of the Class, which is at Least 600, and I am ordered to fine the Delinquents. W^{as} this Known to the people without they were at Liberty to hier the men, it w^d Inreage them much; in the whole we are all Distressed to Know how to Get the men demanded at Present, & believe it will not be don on the futing Now ordered, for which am truly Sorry, & can only say w^t a Good Consience I have now and at all times since I have been fav^d w^t the Comishion from the Hon. Council, Don Everything in my Power and to the best of my Judgment, and w^t a willing and Chearful Hart, and am still willing to March to the field w^t the foremost in the Defence of what is Dear to me as a freeman. But in the mean time beg leave to Resign to yr Exclency the Comishion of Leu^t. Making no Doubt but yr Exclency will appoint a person that will be Much more capable of doing the Duty Required, as indeed under the present law it is too maney for me.

I have the Hon to be w^t Much Respect,

yr Exclencies most ob^t serv^t,

R^d M^cCALESTER.

Shall continue to call on the Next Class, & do Every thing Possible until I hear from Council, which hope will not be long—I hope not more than 8 days.

Directed,

His Exclency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Supraim Executif Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

CAPT. DAVID ZIEGLER TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Honourable Gentlemen,

Your Honours Instruction received from Major Genl. St. Clair the 1st may, shall strictly observe.

The scarcity of some articals Receiv^d by the last cargo Issued of every artical one Week Allowance to the non Commissioned Officers and Soldiers only, Kept the rest for the Gentlemen Officers except spirit & Soap, which will be a sufficient Q^uantitat on hand for dis-

tribution for the Line this 3 Weeks; the Gentlemen approve of it if it would have your Honours Approbation by doing so allwase in the future.

I have had as yet no good opportunity of sending a sum of money to Lt. Col^r Farmer, have the money on hand of the first cargo, and part of the second what is sold. The State of Connexitcut allow their Line

1 Quart Spirit & Ration $\frac{3}{4}$ Week.

1 lb. Muscowada sugar $\frac{3}{4}$ do.,

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Coffee, do. do.,

3 oz. Pepper, $\frac{3}{4}$ Ration $\frac{3}{4}$ Week.

1 lb. Tobacco $\frac{3}{4}$ do., do.

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Soap $\frac{3}{4}$ ditto, ditto.

Honourable Gentlemen

I am with the greatest respect,

your most humble & very Obedient servant,

DAVID ZIEGLER,

Captain 1st Penn^a Reg^t.

Waynesburgh, May 4th, 1779.

This moment have an Opportunity to send with Captain Heydrick, of Philadelphia, 6000 dollars to Lient. Col^r Farmer.

Directed,

On public service.

The Honourable the Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 4th May, 1779.

Sir,

I have the Honor of transmitting to your Excellency the enclosed Copy of an Act of Congress of the 3rd Inst., for the defence of the Posts at Fort-Mifflin & Billings-port.

And am, with great Respect,

Your Excellency's

Most Obed^t Servant,

JOHN JAY, Presid.

His Excellency, President Reed.

Indorsed,

Read in Council, May 4, 1779.

T. M., Sec'y.

* See page 265, and Col. Rec., Vol. XL, p. 776.

SEC. MAILBOX TO MAJ. GEN. ARNOLD, 1779.

Sir,

His Excellency, the President, & the Hon'ble Council, order me to inform you that Colonel John Fitzgerald, late Aid du Camp to His Excellency, General Washington, has been requested to give a deposition of his knowledge respecting instructions given by you to Major David S. Franks, one of your aids, to purchase in the City of Philadelphia, European and East India goods, to any amount, for the payment whereof you would furnish him with money, and directing him not to communicate the same even to his most intimate friends. Coll. Fitzgerald will for this purpose attend at the House of Plunket Fleeson, Esq', to morrow morning at ten o'clock. This notice is given to afford you an opportunity to attend his examination, if you think proper, either by yourself or your attorney.

Coll. Fitzgerald having desired his compliments may be presented to Genl. Arnold, with an intimation of the nature of the testimony he is about to give, induces me to mention generally the nature of his evidence.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

Philada., May 5, 1779.

To Major Genl. Arnold.

COL. BARTREM GALBRAITH TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Lancaster, 5th May, 1779.

May it Please your Excellencie,

In consequence of your late orders sent me, for the Raising of fifty of the Militia men of this County, to be sent to Bedford, I have called upon the Class in rotation of four Battallions, & from the returns made me find only thirteen privates willing to march; have since called in the same manner on four other Battallions, the returns of whom I expect to be furnished with early next week, but am doubtful of even them furnishing the Number wanted. The Militia of this County have been much harassed with the sudden marching of Prisoners, furnishing Sundry Guards over Continental Stores in different parts of this County, as well as facing the common enemy, untill they have served the Second tour of duty even untill the Seventh Class; whilst in other Counties (they say) have only served not much more than their first. I would beg leave to give

my Simple Opinion of the matter. As there are Publick buildings sufficient (no doubt) erected at this place, were the Stores removed from Lebanon (& if in any other parts of the County) to this place, they might be Guarded by a Small Company of about forty men, & the difference of expence of two Companies which have been on duty hitherto to the number of 70 men each, saved; the Guard hereafter to be kept to be of the Invalides (as no doubt there are each) of the Standing Armie. In the first place it would Save a great expence to the Publick, Secondly, it would prevent the militia from differing amongst themselves who should serve their tower of duty upon these guards; added to which, recovering the fines on delinquents with Spirit, as by law directed, our returns on Ocasions of this kind would not be so trifling.

I have been hitherto prevented of recovering fines on delinquents, as I could have wished to have done, by reason of the Officers neglect in making their returns to me, who I must Spur up to that part of duty, in some other line, than hitherto made use of.

Your Excellencie will please to excuse my Freedom in the above, hoping nevertheless, to find that done which may be most prudent in the Matter; & Am with the greatest esteem

Your Excellencies most Obed^t H^{le} Serv^t

BARTREM GALBRAITH,

Lieut for the County of Lancaster.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Indorsed,

Read in Council May 13, 1779, & Extract sent to His Exc^y Genl. Washington.*

CAPTAIN JOHN McCULLOH TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Billingsport, May 5th, 1779.

May it please your Excellency,

In consequence of your orders to the City Lieutenant, I arrived here the 2d instant and relieved the detachment of Col. Procter's Artillery at this post, and along^t with the command I rec^d your instructions to them, wherein I find it my duty to report to you what ever may be necessary to be done. I would therefore beg leave to communicate to you that our Ammunition is in a very dangerous

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XL, p. 776.

deposit at present, which is an apartment adjoining the Barracks, and is therefore liable, by the smallest accident of fire, to be blown up, which might be fatal to the whole garrison; neither is it water-tight. There is another part of your instructions which direct that the officer commanding here should treat the officers of all inward bound vessels, whether Americans or Allies, with kindness & respect, but when I made a small draught upon the Commissary, in order to enable me to fulfill that part of the order, he peremptorily refused it, though he acknowledged the necessity there was for it, but said he could not issue it without an order from you or the Honble, the Board of War, either of which he would immediately obey, and of choice I would much rather apply to your Excellency; I beg therefore you would communicate your pleasure in a line, and if you are pleased to indulge me, as I humbly hope you will, as it is common to officers in my situation, be assured it shall be conducted with becoming frugality.

I am, Sir, with the most profound respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient

And very Humble Servant,

JOHN M'CULLOH,

Cap^t Com^d.

P.S. There are a great number of my Comp^y Mechanics, which would immediately go to work upon a Magazine if there was one to be built, and my assistance shall not be wanting.

J. M'C.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President State Pen^{ty}.

A RETURN OF THE OFFICERS AND MEN BELONGING TO THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE NAVY, 1779.

Galilee.		Commanders.		Privates.											
Franklin,.....	Nathan Boys, Esq,.....	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Gunners.	Boatswains.	Carpenters.	Stewards.	Armorsers.	Present.	In Hospital.	Sick Qrs.	Absent with leave.	Ditto without leave.	Total.	Master Mr.
Hancock,.....	George Garland,.....	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	180	8	1	2		84	Surgeon.
Chatham,.....	Isaac Roach,.....	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	121		2			24	Pay Master.
Kane,.....		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	118					20	
Viper,.....	Stephen Beasley,.....	1	1	1					8	2	1			10	
Lyon,.....	Henry Martin,.....	1	1	1					11	1				13	
Total.		5	6	5	5	8	8	8	388	4	6	3		101	Clerk.

Philadelphia, May 5th, 1779.

LODK. SPROGELL, M. M. G. of P.

CAPT. P. PITCAIRN TO PRES. OF CONGRESS, 1779.

Reading, May 5th, 1779.

Sir,

I am exceedingly sorry to find an order from the Board of War for our removal from this Place. My letter I presume has been misunderstood. Mr Dunlap is released, and the People here wish to be upon a better footing with us, and we having been at a Considerable expence settling ourselves, would wish, if proper, to remain at Reading.

I have the Honour to be,

Your most obed^t Serv^t,

P. PITCAIRN,

Capt. 82nd Reg^t.The Hon^{ble} John Jay, Esq^r.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, May 5th, 1779.

Whereas, the accounts of the deputy purchasing and issuing commissaries under the late Commissary General Joseph Trumbull, deceased, were settled at the time of his death and still remain to be adjusted, and it is necessary that those accounts should be closed without delay,

Resolved,

That Jonathan Trumbull, jun^r, Esq^r, be and is hereby fully authorized and empowered to settle and adjust the said accounts, under the direction of the board of treasury.

Resolved,

That the said Jonathan Trumbull be allowed a clerk to Assist him, and be paid his expences and a reasonable compensation for his time and trouble, to be adjusted when the nature and extent of the service can be ascertained.

Resolved,

That the said Jonathan Trumbull shall take an oath for the faithful execution of this duty, to be administered by the Board of Treasury:—

And it is recommended to the legislatures of the several States whom it may concern, to enact proper laws for facilitating the settlement of the said accounts, and compelling accountants & defaulters within their respective jurisdictions to settle their accounts and do justice to the public.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec^y.

PRES. REED TO LT. COL. SAML. HUNTER, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, May 5th, 1779.

Sir,

Yours by Express was duly rec^d,* & has given us very great Concern—the greater because we fully expected you would have at this Time enjoyed as much Safety & Tranquility as the Troops could give while unemployed in offensive Operations. The Encouragement we gave was founded upon the most solid Ground, & if it has in any Respect failed, it must be attributed to unavoidable Accident. Tho' we greatly lament the distressing Circumstances in which the County is involved, we cannot charge ourselves with omitting any Measure in our Power to give effectual Relief; nor did we rest satisfied untill we received strong Assurances upon that Subject. We have now complied with every Request in your Letter; Medicines are provided, which will be sent up by a waggon which carries those designed for Col. Hartley's Reg^t, under the care of Mr Jenneys, Surgeon to that Reg^t. A Case of Instruments is also sent up—both to be put under Care & disposed of by you as you think best. We have also sent up 10,000 Dollars of this Opp^r, to be applied by you in forward^t the recruiting Service of the 9 Months Men. Cap^t McWhatten & Lieutenants Dogherty & Arthur were recommended to us by Gen. Potter; it is a very great Misfortune they were not on the Spot, as precious Time is thereby lost, but to give all the Remedy we can, we do authorize you to appoint suitable Officers in their Places, & push on the Business expeditiously. As soon as you signify the Appointments, we will send up the Commissions; the recruiting Instructions formerly sent to the others will serve for them, and as you do not mention other Wants, we presume none of a pressing Kind exist. We now conclude with assuring you that we shall pay an unremitted Attention to the Inhabitants of the Frontiers, for whose Distresses we have the Sympathy of Brethren, & shall leave nothing undone by us to give you the most substantial Proofs thereof.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

Phila., May 5, 1779.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by His Excellency, the President, to inform you that a piece of heavy Cannon at Princetown belong'g to the State of Pennsylvania, is intended for the defence of the river Delaware, and will be sent for immediately. This information is given you in

* See page 346.

consequence of an intimation that it has been proposed to send this Cannon to the Northward.

I am, with great respect,

Your obedient humble Servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

Hn'ble Board of War.

LT. COL. COATS TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Urged by our Duty to, and Regard for the Welfare of the State, We beg leave to address you upon a Subject which we submit to your Attention.

In the year 1777, the County of Philad^a was possessed of a considerable Number of Arms marked with the County Mark, which it was always expected were to be reserved for the use and service of the Militia of the said County; these Arms were by an Order of General Armstrong delivered up at Camp when the Militia were about to return home from Service.

This has prevented the Lieutenants from discharging their Duty in that part of the Law which orders them "to provide Arms, &c., &c."

We therefore request of his Excellency the President, and the hon^{le} the Council, that they would be pleased to grant an Order for a sufficient number of Arms for each Battalion of the said County.

We beg leave to assure the Council that a military Spirit appears once more to pervade the Militia, from the Encouragement and Satisfaction given by the late Supplement to the Militia Law; and we are of Opinion that if his Excellency the President would review them, it would have a very happy Effect, as they are very anxious to see their Commander in Chief in the Field.

We would wish this Proposal to meet with his Excellency's Approbation.

In Behalf of the Lieutenants of the County of Philada.

WM. COATS, Lieu^t C. P.

Philada., 6 May, 1779.

Directed,

The hon^{le} The Supreme Executive Council.

LIEUT. WM. COATS TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Philadelphia, 6 May, 1779.

Gentlemen:

On the 4 february, 1778, I had the misfortune of being made a Prisoner* by a detachment of the British Army, in which Situation I have since continued under Parole. Upon repeated Applications to Colonel Beatty, Com'y Gen'l of Prisoners, I have always been informed, that he could not negotiate an Exchange for me, as he could only consider me in the Light of a Civil Officer belonging to the State of Pennsylvania. My Parole to Sir Henry Clinton also runs in the civil Line, and this has hitherto been an effectual Bar to my Exchange.

I am, therefore, induced to lay before the hon^{ble}, the Council, my particular Case, and to request their Attention to the following Proposal:

There is in New York a M^r John Foxcroft, formerly Postmaster General under the British Government, now a Prisoner, and under Parole to the State of Pennsylvania—his Circumstances resemble my own, and it appears to me an Exchange might easily be negotiated.

I flatter myself that the hon^{ble}, the Council, will see no Injustice or Disadvantage accruing to the State from such an Exchange, and I earnestly solicit their Compliance.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

your most obed. hble. serv^t,

WM. COATS, Lieut^t C. P.

Directed,

The hon^{ble}, The Supreme Executive Council.

PRES. REED TO GEN. WASHINGTON, 1779.

May 8, 1779.†

Sir,

Your Favour of the 27th Ult. has been considered by us with that Attention & Respect justly due to it; and we are extremely sorry to find that the Expressions of Solitude for the Safety of our distressed Inhabitants on the Frontiers and our Anxiety to prevent future Calamities should have given you Pain. We hoped we had expressed ourselves with so much Caution on this occasion that every unacceptable Idea would have been fully excluded. Be assured, Sir, our Intentions were only to convey to you the Sense of the People in those afflicted Counties, presuming that it would be much more

* See Vol. VI., p. 261, 280.

† Indorsed May 8th.

agreeable to receive it in this Way than from News Papers, formal Applications, or painful Remonstrances. And we did it the more readily, as we ever understood it to be a distinguishing Part of your Excell^y Character to seek for every Sort of Information, and more especially that which might prevent evils, & guard against Dissatisfaction, whether well or ill founded.—If the Manner of doing it did not correspond with our Intentions we would wish you to ascribe it to any other Cause than a Diminution of that Confidence and Attachment of which we have given Professions not less sincere than they were publick.—And retaining still the same Opinion of your Excellency's Candour & Judgment we submit it whether the Expectations of a State for Security & Protection are not naturally limited or extended according to its own Exertions & the Force it furnishes to the common Cause. If its supplies of Men & other military Means are ample, & the Burthens heavy, Expectations will rise proportionately. If we are to judge of the Contingent furnished to the Continental Army from this State by the Applications made to us to partake of the Bounties and Indulgences lately given by this State to the Troops, we must hold a respectable Place in the Military Line.—We have 12 Regiments including Artillery on the Line, equally filled with any other State & much superior to some. We have a greater Proportion raised for the War, as we are informed, than any other. Besides this, a Reg^t of Horse—the Invalid Corps, or at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of it the Provost Corps, & half of the German Battalion all have put in their Claims, making in the whole a very considerable Body.—We do not say any Thing of the Artificers, Manufacturers &c., or the Transportation afforded by this State, tho' forming a very Considerable Part of the publick Burthens, & being the principal Dependance of the Army, they naturally give the People of the State a Sense of their Importance, & would, if the Occasion should happen, make them feel very sensibly any Hardships which might arise from an unequal Distribution of Protection. That we have been by far the greatest Sufferers on the Frontiers, have had more People killed, & more Country desolated, we presume cannot be doubted. If Virginia & the other States have suffered by the Ravages of the Indians in any Proportion to this State, the particulars have never reached us—and as the Idea of our receiving any Protection from Amand's & Pulaski's Corps must have arisen from some Misapprehension or Mistake, we beg Leave to assure your Excell^y that we never derived the slightest Benefit from them, but on the other Hand are still smarting under their Abuse & Desolation, the Complaints of which we suppressed, & the Complainants perswaded to bear with Patience their Losses & Sufferings.

We apprehend that were the Affairs of the Frontiers of Pennsylvania more fully known to your Excell^y, it would in some degree remove the Idea of our Southwestern or Northern Frontiers having been so effectually covered—the Waste of Country & Evacuation of large & flourishing Settlements, whose Inhabitants, as Gen. M^cIn-

tosh & others assure us, are going down the Ohio daily to settle elsewhere, give but too melancholy a Proof of their exposed & dangerous Situation, & that they think their new Settlements afford a better Prospect of Safety. But as Discussions of this Nature seem to give Pain where we would always wish to excite contrary Sensations we shall avoid them in future, & endeavour to remove from the Minds of the Sufferers any Doubts & Apprehensions which being the natural Effects of Ruin & Distress, will claim our Pity, however groundless at this Distance they may appear.

We heartily wish Success to the proposed Expedition, & shall do every Thing in our Power to promote it. It is our Interest so to do, for if it should terminate as the one last Year did from Fort Pitt, our Western Country will be in a most deplorable situation, & the State little short of Ruin. When we therefore suggested an Idea that it might be laid aside we did not suppose it would be so—but regarding the Possibility of such an Event from the difficulty of combining all the Circumstances necessary to its Progress & Success, we thought it our Duty to lay our Expectations & Wishes before you, that we might avoid any Occasion of Complaint in future from the Inhabitants of that Country.—And we shall esteem ourselves peculiarly unfortunate if the Mode of doing it should in any degree have counteracted our own Wishes & Intentions.

We have kept from public View most of the Accounts we have received—but that your Excell^y may form a more just Judgment of our Situation we have selected a few from Men of the most Note in the Country, which have just come to Hand. When you have considered them, & also that we have a discontented Party in the State seeking every Occasion to disparage the Government, we flatter ourselves you will allow for our Feelings & Anxieties. To us the Inhabitants look in the first Instance, & upon us the Odium & Blame will fall if after holding out Hopes of Safety to them they should find themselves disappointed, tho from Causes unforeseen & unavoidable.

Your Excell^y has observed that “if the Resources of the States cannot furnish a competent Force for compleat Defence they will be more just than to expect from the Army Protection in every Point.” We feel the Justice of the Remark, but our Expectations go no farther than Protection in Proportion to the Troops furnished by the State to the Army. If from seeing the Regiments of Pennsylvania drawn off on both sides & forming a Part of the Protection of New York & Virginia, while no Troops from any other State formed a Part of ours, an undue Inference has been drawn of our Strength & Numbers—we readily admit it to be unjust & groundless, for the Circumstances alone could by no Means warrant it—but whatever the Resources of all the States collectively may be, each will we conceive expect an Attention individually according to its Resources & the Exertion of them. We are perfectly satisfied with the Motives which have induced your Excell^y to lay aside the Co-

operation of the Troops from Fort Pitt—nor should we have troubled you with any Observation thereupon, if it had not been suggested to us that in this Case a smaller Garrison might perhaps be sufficient for Fort Pitt, & some of Broadheads People without Inconvenience be spared to Westmoreland so as to make the Militia there the less necessary, but as you seem to think any Diminution of the Strength at that Post hazardous, we readily acquiesce.

The Transmotion respecting Gen. Arnold is put upon a Footing so satisfactory to us that we regret the Misconception which seems to have taken Place of our Ideas upon it. It is apparent to us that your Excell^y has not understood us. We think there is a material Difference between a publick Body exhibiting *Charges* against a Man to his superior Officer or Authority, & expressing their Sense of his Conduct & assigning their Reasons for it. In the first Case they virtually offer themselves as Prosecutors, appeal to some Tribunal & claim the Infliction of the Punishment annexed by civil or military Law on the Offences charged.—In the other Case they give an Opinion operating only as the World shall give it Weight, drawing with it no military or civil Punishment. In this last View we acted in the Business, & considering ourselves entitled to appear in either Capacity; it was Matter of Concern to us to see that the Idea which was carefully exclud^d as we thought from the Resolution of Congress, appeared in your Excell^y Letter, that a Trial was directed on the 2^d, 3, & 5 *Charges exhibited by the Council against him*. Our Wish was to be understood not as having exhibited any Charges to Congress or yourself against him except that of abusing Waggon^s, & that only that he might remain to answer. And tho at first View it may seem a Refinement yet if your Excell^y will reflect upon the Consequences you will see they are very important. For if by a publick Body expressing their Sense of an Officers Conduct they are to be considered as exhibiting Charges against him to superior Authority—it will follow that they become his Prosecutors, must support the Charges, attend any Tribunal however distant, inconvenient, or prejudicial to the other publick Affairs of the State, or subject themselves to the Imputation of Malice or Wantonness. And we think it would not be a pleasing sight to your Excell^y to behold the legislative or Executive Bodies of the States following the Camp under all its Inconveniences & Dangers on such an Occasion. If Military Punishment is sought—the Seekers must submit to the Inconveniences whatever they are, otherwise Injustice may be done the Individual. But when no such Object is in View but the publick Judgment appealed to, the Individual has his Opp^y of vindicating himself & show the Opinion form^d of him to be unjust. There has been scarcely a bad Governor on the Continent of whom the publick Bodies have not expressed such Opinions, & yet there was always a regular Tribunal & proper Authority where they might have sought Redress.

In this Transaction tho a Remedy for publick Abuses was our

Object, unforeseen & unexpected Difficulties occurred untill we got it put into your Excell^ys Hands, we were encouraged by that Circumstance & are now resolved to go thro with this, but are inclined to believe that we shall in future bear our Part patiently of the Consequences of any Evils of this Kind as the lesser Inconvenience of the two. In the present Case for the Sake of Peace, & that Congress might not consume more Days (for many were spent on this comparatively trifling Business) we proposed the present Trial, & are content to be considered in any Point of View necessary to bring it to a proper Issue. When we speak of Difficulties or Obstructions we beg you to believe we confine our Views entirely to this City—The Parties which then divided the State created & continued them, if the same Transaction was to happen again different Measures we think would be pursued.

The President has communicated to us that he has received in a private Letter a Notification of the Tryal for the 1st June, which is quite agreeable to us, and the Letter has been delivered to General Arnold accordingly.

The necessary Connection of Evidence on one Point will fail by the Absence of Clarkson & Franks, but as we have no Doubt it was intentional we think postponing the Trial on that account would be of no Effect, as they would not probably return to these Parts till it was finished, even if postponed to the 1st of July or a later day.—We shall have the Papers got in Readiness with such other Preparations as may be necessary.

We do not expect that any Influence or Authority of ours will induce the appearance of those from this State whose Attendance is necessary—we must therefore endeavour to supply it as well as circumstances will admit.—We are sorry your Excell^y should suppose we had suspicions of the Honour & Impartiality of the Officers who are to compose the Court—if such is the natural Inference from our Expressions it was a very great Inaccuracy.—We thought there was a material Distinction between the doing an act & the nature of it when done—that the Objects of Consideration were quite different, & from Sentiments expressed here by some we had Reason to apprehend that Persons unacquainted with the Nature of the Service & the Consequences of perverting the public Waggon, might deem it a small Matter & treat it accordingly.—But we would much rather have omitted the Remark wholly than have given Room for such a construction.

We hope your Excell^y will excuse the Length of these Observations, as we did not apprehend that any such Consequences would have flowed or Inferences have been drawn from ours of the 24th & 25 April,* we have been the more solicitous to obviate them & are equally so to avoid any Occasion for the like in future.

When we consider the Situation of our Militia in this State their

* See page 337, 341.

Deficiency in Arms & that those Counties from whence they ought to be furnished have been so constantly called upon for near two Years that they seem weary & averse to the Service we fear it will be utterly impracticable to draw out any Number of them within the Time required & tho' it is painful to us to acknowledge it we think better to do so than to give Expectations which we have so much Reason to fear will fail. These are the principal Difficulties but there are others an of Inferior Nature which Time only can remedy The Militia is composed altogether of those who are attached to the present Government—they see all the Appointments of Commissaries Q^r Master & other Officers of Continental Establishment bestowed almost without Exception on Persons opposed to the Government—Many of these are profitable, all give an Influence of which they are never like to partake, on the other Hand it is employed to support opposite Measures. Former & late appointments have ran in the same Channel, so that the Body of Whigs in the State have in a great Degree lost that Ardour and Zeal which gives Life & Spirit to Service. We wish it was otherwise & that as a common & indispensable Duty all Ranks would concur however smaller Circumstances might run counter, but it is to be feared there is too much of human Nature in it, to be easily rectified. We have long seen & lamented the Progress of this Evil the Effects of which are every Day more visible throughout the State.

The imprudent Behaviour of some Officers stationed in the Country also contributes to increase the Mischief. The Inhabitants of Lancaster County actually embodied themselves ag^t Pulaski's Corps and Colonel White's Conduct at Lancaster has not lessened the Disquiet. He without any Provocation or as appears since a mistaken one the other Day beat the Att^y Gen^l with Circumstances of great Indignity — this the 3d Time that Officer of the Gov^t has been so treated by Continental Officers.*

We had yesterday a Return shewn us of the Forage drawn at that Post by his Reg^t by which it appears that in the Time they have been there they have drawn 7050 Bushels of Grain & 230 Tons of Hay—No State or County can support such Expence.—These circumstances have a very unhappy Effect & the Continuance of Staff Officers whose Mismanagement is so notorious discourages the People in their Exertions for real and actual service.—We forward your Excell^y Letters lately received from the Lieu^t of Lancaster & York Counties, and as we find that from the Difficulty of procuring Militia & the Period of their Service we cannot draw that effectual Support from them that we wish we have endeavoured to supply it, in the following Manner which we believe you may depend upon. We are forwarding the 5 Companies of Rangers which will make 380 men. Westmorland has raised 2 additional Companies under the Encouragement of Gen^l M'Intosh & has offered to raise another—North-

* See Vol. VI., p. 286.

umberland has also raised 3 Companies these will make 265 Men & tho' they have been raised by a kind private subscription we have encouraged & adopted them these will make in the whole 746 Men none of less Term of service than 6 months. In addition to these if the commands Officer of the Expedition when he gets into the County finds it expedient & practicable Orders will be lodged with the Lieutenant of the County to comply with any Requisition he may make of Militia for the Purpose men^d in your Excell's Letter & we hope in such Case it would be effectual as the Season being past for putting in their Spring Grain they will have more Leisure & Inclination.

Last Year the Counties of Lancaster, York, Cumberland, Berks & Northampton furnished 1200 men for the Frontier on this side the Mountains Westmoreland sent every Man that they could spare to Fort Pitt—The unevacuated Part of Northumberland kept all their Militia under Arms with Col. Hartley the whole Season—Besides this Lancaster has kept 140 Men since last Fall & now has the same Number guarding Continental Stores at Lancaster & Lebanon.—Two hundred were also kept on Duty the whole of the summer & Fall in and about this City for the like Purpose.—We took our Share of guards the Convention Troops And since Proctor's Reg^t has been ordered to march we have garrisoned the Forts on the River. When all these Circumstances are considered we hope we shall not be esteemed so deficient in public Duty as may appear at first Sight. Maryland has declined even furnishing a Company of Militia to relieve Rawlin's Reg^t—& Congress has directed a special Reg^t to be raised in Virginia for guarding the Convention Prisoners.

Should any Emergency make it expedient to call a Reinforcement of Militia to the Grand Army for any special Purpose we think we could promise your Excell'y a Body of Men from the City & adjacent Counties, they not having been called to any other Duty for some Time than we have mentioned above & we flatter ourselves that in this Case many Gentlemen of Note would set a laudable Example.

Upon the whole we beg Leave to assure your Excell'y of our very sincere Regard & most respectful Attachment & that we shall on all Occasions most chearfully co-operate in any Measure you shall recommend to us—being fully convinced that in all your Views & Actions a disinterested Love to your Country & Regard to its Safety and Happiness are the ruling Principles of your Conduct. With these Sentiments and most unfeigned Wishes for your Health Success & Happiness,

We remain your Excell^y
most Obed^t & very
H^bble Serv^t

CAPT. MATTHEW MCHENRY TO CAPTAIN CHARLES WILSON
PEALE, 1779.

Allentownship, Northampton County, May 10th, 1779.

Sir,

The Inhabitants of Chestnuthill, Toamensing and Penn Townships, having been alarmed by the frequent Murders committed on the Frontiers of this State, & in the latter end of last Month, by the inhuman Massacre of four of the Continental Soldiers, with their officers, on their Way to Wioming, made application to the Constitutional Society of the Fourth Battalion of Northampton County, for Advice or Instruction how to proceed under their distressed & Alarmed situation; and were by us recommended to Petition the honourable the President & Council of this State for such Aid as might in the least expensive manner answer the valuable Purpose of Quieting their Minds, guarding or alarming the Frontier, (if occasion required) so that the Inhabitants might follow their different occupations without Interruption or a perpetual apprehension of Danger.* They, in consequence of our advice, formed the Petition which we transmit to you, and at the same time sent a Line with it, requesting us to recommend it to our Brethern of Philadelphia, that by their Interposition with Council their Prayer might be heard. We have examined their Petition, & for the truth of their situation as a Frontier, therein represented, refer you to Major Alex^r Boyd, who is well acquainted with the Geographies of those Parts. We sincerely wish that the Honourable the President & Council would consider their situation as a dangerous one, and so far comply with the contents of their Petition as that, by their having Guards in whom they can confide, they may enjoy their Dwellings without apprehension of Danger.

I am with sincerity,

yours, &c.,

MATTHEW MCHENRY.

Mr. Andrew Boyd, who is the Bearer, has been an Officer in the Continental Army, was taken Prisoner at Fort Washington; has constantly attended our Meetings, & always behaved as a Constitutionalist, is by us recommended to your Society as a Person well affected to the American Interest.

Directed,

To Captain Charles Wilson Peale, in Philadelphia.

* See page 360.

PRESIDENT REMD TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

In Council.

Philadelphia, May 10th, 1779.

Gent.,

The Advices received from New York of the actual sailing of the Fleet, with a Body of Troops, tho' most probably for the West Indies, or some other Part of America, induce us to wish the March of Col. Proctor's Regt might, if practicable, be deferred for a few Days. Tho' the Enemy may not have this River & City in Contemplation as the Object of a real Attack, we think it highly probable that they may shew themselves by Way of Feint or Division, which would throw the City into Consternation. In this situation it would greatly contribute to ease the Minds of the Inhabitants if, instead of depending intirely on the Militia, this Body of Artillery could be at Hand to throw into the Forts, in case of any hostile Appearances, & we hope it will not be detrimental to the proposed Expedition.

We some Time ago transmitted you a Resolve of Congress, & requested to know whether this State is to be considered as a separate Department, within the Measures of that Resolve.* We also wish to know whether Gen. Arnold has resumed Military Command in this State, as Papers have been produced to us, signed by him, since your Hon'ble Board gave us formal Notice that he had resigned Command in this State. Your answer to both is desired as soon as convenient.

I am Gent^l,

very respectfully,

your obed^t hu^{ble} serv^t.*Directed,*

To the Honorable Board of War.

COLONEL BENJ. FLOWER TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Philadelphia, 10th May, 1779—Evening.

Sir,

I am just Honor'd with the Request of Council, concerning the want of Amunition for two twenty-four pounders, and one thirty-two pounder Cannons, at Mud Island, and have to inform you that I understood there was a sufficient quantity sent, soon after the Cannons, agreeable to a Return made for them by Colonel Proctor;

* See page 256, 389.

but will inquire of the Commissary in the morning, and if not, will lay the Request before the Hon'ble Board of War & Ordnance for their approbation, and Request that in all future applications for Military Stores of any species, the Hon'ble Council will please to let their demand come through the Chanel of that Board, as I am not authorized to issue any stores but by their Orders, whilst they are on the spot.

I am with due respect,
the Council and your
obed^t serv^t,

BENJAMIN FLOWER,
Col. A'y, & A. Com'y Gen'l of Mil'y Stores.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esqr., Secretary to the Hon'ble Executive Council. Present.

ROBERT MORRIS TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Philadelphia, May 10th, 1779.

Hon'ble Gent^s,

One hundred muskets are arrived from Cape Francois, $\frac{2}{3}$ ^{as} whereof for this State, & one third for Maryland; be pleased to give orders to the proper officer to receive sixty-seven of them, & I will cause the same to be delivered to him. The freight is due to Messrs. Geo. Meade & Co., which I will pay & render you an account thereof.

With great respect I am,
Your most obed^t serv^t,

ROBERT MORRIS.*

Directed.

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Hon'ble Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 771.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sr,

Two of five German deserters, that left York Island the first of this month, have just now been with me—say there are :

In York Island, 6 Hessian & 5 English Reg^{ts}.

In York, 3 Bat. British Grenadiers,

5 English & 3 German regiments embarked two days before they deserted—supposed to be for Georgia, the transports lay off the city.

Col. Emerick's corps of light horse at Kingsbridge, the rest of the cavalry on Staten Island.

Suppose their regiment, Losberga, about 500 strong, the German regiments much stronger than the English.

Know nothing of the English Navy at New York. This is all the information I could collect from them.

I am with respect,

your Excellencies most

humble & obedient servant,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

May 10th, 1779.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, May 10th, 1779.

Sir,

We have been honoured with yours of this Day. The March of Proctor's Regiment is Part of a general Arrangement, & the Officer commanding the Expedition is to inform when they are to move. We every Day expect this Information. But if it will not materially interfere with the Plan of the Expedition, we shall be happy to comply with the Honourable Council's Request, & detain the Regiment for a short time.

In Answer to the Letter of the 24 April,* we had the Honour to receive, enclosing Copy of a Resolution of Congress, on the Subject of Persons going within the Enemy's Lines, we can only say that we never considered this City or State "as a separate Department from the Commander in Chief." If there were any particular Circumstances attending the taking Possession of the City, no Doubt they will be explained by the Act of Congress,

* See pages 256, 339, 385.

passed on the Subject a short time before the Enemy's Departure. All our Military Transactions (not necessary to proceed immediately from the Board) which concern this Post pass thro' General Hogan. We have not been informed of General Arnold's resuming the Command since his Letter of the 19th March, Copy whereof, for the Information of Council, was by an order transmitted.

We are Sir,

very respectfully,

your obed. h'ble Servant,

RICHARD PETERS.

By order.

Directed,

On public service. To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania (War Office.)

M. GENL. JOHN SULLIVAN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Head Quarters, Easton,

May 11, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I find that a Law of your State will much Impede The Intended Expedition, unless your Excellency will procure an order from the Executive Council Impowering the Quarter Masters to Impress in this County such Waggon, horses, &c., as may be found necessary for forwarding the Stores, &c., over to Susquehannah.

You will Easily Discover the necessity of this Measure, & I doubt not of your readiness to Comply with the Request.

I must Intreat your attention to forward the Troops which Genl. Washington Requested from your State for the Expedition.

I have the Honor to be,

with Much Esteem,

Y^r Excellency's most obed^t Serv^t,

JOHN SULLIVAN.

Directed,

(On Publick Service.)

To His Excellency Governor Read, Philadelphia.

M. Genl. Sullivan.

LO. SPROGELL, M. M. G. of Pa.

Galley.		Commanders.	
Franklin, Hancock, Chatham, Fame, Viper, Lion,	Nathan Boys, George Garland, Lease Rosch, Stephen Beasley, Henry Martin,		
Captains.	Lieutenants.	Gunners.	Boatswains.
Carpenters.	Stewards.	Armourers.	Present.
In Hospital.	Sick Qrs.	Absent with leave.	Do. without leave.
Total.	Muster Mr.	Surgeon.	Pay Master.
Clark.			

COUNCIL TO MAGISTRATES OF BALTIMORE, 1779.

Council Chamber,

Philadelphia, May 11, 1779.

Gentlemen,

The State of Pennsylvania having fitted out a Ship intended to cruize on the coast for the protection of trade, finding some difficulty in manning her, layed an embargo on all shipping for fifteen days, in expectation that it would be practicable within the time to enlist her compliment of men. Her sailing would undoubtedly have been a mutual benefit to the trade of this and of your State. But Captain Robert French of Baltimore has been in this City, and it appears by the enclosed deposition has inveighed away several men actually in the State Service, as well as a considerable number of seamen on whom the State depended to man their Ship, altho' he gave his word of honour that he would not take any of them out of the State, and also became bound with surety for performance of his engagement.

The Bearer hereof, Captain Martin, in the State Service, is sent to your town, in order, if possible, to recover the Seamen belonging to the State, and the Council request you will give him your assistance therein, as the authority of this State will, on all occasions, readily do by the officers of your State.

With due respect, I am, Gent,

Your humble Serv^t,J. R., Pres^t.

To The Magistrates of the town of Baltimore in the State of Maryland.*

PRES. REED TO HENRY FISHER, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, May 11th, 1779.

Sir,

I have just received Advice that on the 7th Inst., a Fleet sailed from New York with a Number of Troops on board, its Destination uncertain; supposed by some to the West Indies or Georgia, & by others to Baltimore or some Port in the middle States. We think it incumbent on us to keep a proper Lookout, for tho' this City may not be the Object of their Attack, it is probable they may show

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 771.

themselves at the Capes, with a View to alarm & harass us. I have therefore directed Capt. Roach to go down to you to request you will with your usual Alacrity & Diligence give us all the needful Assistance, & if they should make their Appearance, send the earliest Intelligence by an Express, directing him to keep it an entire Secret on the Road & here, that the Authority of the State having the first Information proper Measures may be taken to prevent that Consternation & Confusion which is apt to take Place in large Cities upon the expected Approach of an Enemy. If it is convenient we would wish you to accompany Capt. Roach to Cape May, & there fix Matters in such a Manner that an Express may come from thence under the same Restrictions, if the first Appearance should be on that Shore. Besides all necessary Expences, we shall give the Messengers, if they should come & do their Duty a handsome Gratuity, & shall pay a proper Attention to your Services.

I am, Sir,

Your very Hb'ble. Ser.,

J. R.

Directed,

To Henry Fisher, Esq., at Lewis Town.

COL. HARTLEY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

York Town, May the 11th, 1779.

Hon^d Sir,

The Commissary in this County has exerted himself very much in procuring Provisions for the Troops on the Susquehanna. The Expedition on those waters must greatly depend upon the Supplies from hence, but unfortunately, no Waggon can be provided in the ordinary Course to transport the Flour to Harris's Ferry, where the Boats are to receive the same.

The unhappy Situation of the Frontiers requires every Exertion. The River is getting low—Colonel Green will write—I hope the Council will please to give Directions that waggons be immediately impressed for transporting the Flour to Kelsoes, near Harris's Ferry—the Distance is not thirty miles from York.

I am, with great Respect

Your most obed^t

humble Serv^t

THOS. HARTLEY.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq^r, Presid^t of the Executive Council of Penna^a.

MEMORIAL OF THE FIRST COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA
MILITIA ARTILLERY, 1779.

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President, and the Honorable Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Memorial and Petition of the first Company of Philadelphia Militia Artillery, Commanded by Colo. Jehu Eyre, and now stationed at Fort Mifflin.

Humbly Sheweth,

That your Petitioners and Memorialists, again call'd out in defence of this State, being ever willing to exert ourselves in behalf of the United States, and this in particular, and to support as much as in us lies, the Virtuous Cause of Freedom and Independency, have once more chearfully stepped forth in obedience to the Laws of our Country, to act in a Military Capacity.

Nevertheless, we humbly beg leave to represent to your Excellency and this Honorable Board, the Circumstances and Grievances attending ourselves and many of our worthy fellow Countrymen, who having uniformly conducted themselves hitherto, are with us, Still determined to exert their utmost Efforts.

In the Month of July, 1776, We were first call'd forth to Amboy, Elizabethtown, &c., to endeavor to repel the force of a formidable British and Hessian Army then landed, or landing, on Staten Island. We chearfully attended the call, and associated to stem the Current of their violent Determinations to destroy and ravage this Country; at the same time leaving our families at every risque of distress and hardships, and at the mercy of the disaffected, Inimical, or self Interested; and, we might presume to say, the most Obnoxious part of the Community. Upon the return of most of us, (for some died, were killed by accident, or taken prisoners) We found every necessary and convenience of life greatly enhanced in price, and ourselves Calaminated and despised; as having justly merited our loss of Business, &c., by being too forward in taking an Active part, and bearing Arms. But it was at that time borne with patience, in expectation of redress.

In the month of December following, when the British Army were attempting by crossing the Jersey State to take possession of this City, we were exhorted on the Commons (by a General at that time much in esteem) to turn out again and support the Army of his Excellency, General Washington, with the most Solemn assurance that those who turn'd out might expect to receive satisfaction & redress in the premises, and Delinquents proportionally pay for their refusal. We, with a number of virtuous Citizens and Countrymen, rushed forth, notwithstanding the Inclemency of the Season, and the

Services then perform'd, thro' the Assistance of Divine Providence, and the abilities of our Excellent Commander in Chief in the Defeat of the British and Hessian forces at Trenton and Princeton, are too recent to be recapitulated, and will remain a lasting Memorial of Virtue, Prudence, and Success.

After a Series of Hardships unusual to Citizens in private life, and not common to Soldiers in the Field, we return'd, and found those persons we left behind had again taken Advantage of our Absence, and enormously advanced the prices on every thing; this was encreasing the distress of the Associators, who were treated at the same time with Indignity and Contempt. We had Arms in our hands, and knew the use of them; but instead of avenging ourselves, or retaliating on our Innate and Worse of Enemies, we patiently waited the Interference of the Legislative Authority. We were amused by the promises of Fines, Penalties, &c., on the Delinquents and that the Virtuous, Voluntary Militia would be put on a respectable Footing; but we cannot help observing, that the Militia are Viewed in the most disrespectful light, and few of the Fines then mentioned, or afterwards enacted, but what were artfully evaded so as not to comply with the true End and Intention of such Imposition.

The Spring, and part of the Summer in the year 1777, pass'd without any Material Circumstances respecting the Militia, except the Law in that Clause provided whereby it was enacted, that Substitutes might be allow'd in Case the rightful Persons did not appear. By this Law, the Designing or disaffected Secur'd themselves by hiring Substitutes, many of whom were not worthy of the Charge as not being Citizens; others deserted, whilst their Employers, by staying behind, were reaping advantage at our Expence, and amassing Fortunes.

Your Petitioners, apart of the Sufferers, (and some of them among the foremost) were, in Sept^r and part of October, in the year 1777, in public Service as Militia, station'd at Billingsport, while many of our wives and families were in this City, then in possession of the Enemy. Several have lost their All; and when we return'd (as we thought) happily to the City last year, Shortly every Article of life or Convenience was rais'd upon us, Eight, ten, or twelve fold at least; and many of us are at a loss to this day what Course or Station of Life to adopt to Support ourselves and Families.

The Honorable House of Assembly during their last session, have been pleas'd to Enact a Supplement to the Militia Law empowering heavy Fines upon Delinquents not forming in Militia, or, when call'd out on service, which we are Convinced was expected to answer the purpose Intended; but when we consider that Men in these Exorbitant Times can acquire more by Monopolizeing, or by an under Trade, in one Day, than will defray all their Expences of Fines or Penalties in a whole year, We humbly presume the Midling and poor will still bear the Burden, and either be totally ruin'd by heavy Fines, or Risque the starving of their Families, whilst themselves

are fighting the Battles of those who are Avariciously intent on Amassing Wealth by the Destruction of the more virtuous part of the Community.

These weighty Circumstances being duly considered, Your Petitioners most humbly pray your Excellency and this Honorable Board to state the Facts, and use your Interest with the Honorable House of Assembly at their next Session; either to enact a Law whereby every Delinquent, not turhing out in Militia when Legally call'd forth, may be fined in proportion to his Estate; or, otherwise, take of all the Fines and Penalties, and leave it to the Militia who obey the Call to Compell every able Bodied Man to join them in some Station, lest when the Militia are call'd forth, by leaving such numbers of Disaffected in their Rear, they, by pursuing their usual Methods, render our Situation worse than making us prisoners of War.

And your Petitioners and Memorialists, as in Duty Bound, will Ever Pray.

Signed at Fort Mifflin, May 12th, 1779.*

John McGinly, Cpt. of Artillary,
William Thorne, Lt Capt,
William Robinson, first Lt,
Samuel Powell, 2d Lieut.,
John Dean, Cap^t Engineer,
Samuel Johnson, Q^r M^r Serj^t,
John Robbins, 1st Serj^t,
Tho^s Mitchell, 2^d Serj^t,
William Clayton, 3^d Serj^t.

Joseph Carmalt,
John Hughes,
Conrad Ort,
John Greble

} Corporals,

, Drum,
John Waldrick, Fife,
Joseph Fry, Conductor,

Christian Fiss,
Henry Bartleson,
Edward Riffets,
Samuel Stern,

} Bombadiers,

George Hess,
John Barras,
John Hoefflein,
Jacob Klintuc, (?)
Jacob Baldwin,
John Knight, Jun^r,
Peter Grub,
Jacob Kinnards,
Joseph Govett, Clerk,

} Gunners,

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 73.

Charles Knight,	} Matross's.
John Cook,	
Jacob State,	
William Oemp	
his	
Dedrick X Monsaga,	
Mark.	
Jonathan Smith,	
Jacob Sander,	
his	
Jacob X Cresman,	
Mark.	
John Doogan,	
George M ^c Allen,	
Thomas Morris,	
David Dickinson,	
his	
Griffith X Griffiths,	
Mark.	
Archibald Stewart,	
Conrad Piggeon,	
Andrew Walker,	
George Tell,	
Josiah Cohoon,	
Baum Lee, (?)	
Alex ^r Boyd,	
Morres Worrel,	
Thomas Griffith,	
George Felker.	

Indorsement.

1779, rec'd May 20^a. Petition of the first Comp^y of Militia*
Artillery now at Mud Island, Philadelphia County.

JON'A. D. SERGEANT TO V. P. BRYAN, 1779.

Reading, 12 May, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I have not yet seen the newspaper of last Week containing the piece signed *Juror*. Hope that mine from Lancaster has reached You.

I don't know how you can get a copy of the indictment ag^t Franks. Mr. Burd has it not here, nor I have no Copy. Among my Papers possibly you may find the original Draught. In one of the lower Pidgeon holes of my Paper Case are a Bundle of Papers relative to Franks' Case, & among them two Copies of Indictm^{ts}; one of that

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 776.

for Treason, which was returned Ignoramus, & the other of that for Misdemeanor.

We have convicted another Robber here—a most wicked Villain; One Brown, who was lately acquitted of a Burglary, in Philad^a, & is now in Jail for his Fine & Fees, appears, most probably, to have been one of his accomplices here. The name & other Circumstances agree. I wish the sheriff might be cautioned to take Care of that Fellow. The C. J. promised to write, but he omits it as yet, & I wish the whole Group of these Fellows to have Justice done them.

When I wrote you last I was excessively tired with my Ride from Lancaster; but really it is not in my power to furnish many remarks in the Case of Franks. You will see in 4 Blackst. under the Head of Misprision, I think, that a man guilty of High Treason may be prosecuted for a Misdemeanor, as was done in the Earl of Rutland's Case. And Coke says that there is nothing declared Treason by the stat. 25 Edw. 3^d, which was not Treason before at Common Law. This point of Law was stirred on the Trial of Franks, & ruled in my Favour by the Court. This offence seems to be clearly within the Clause of Misprision of Treason, as well as that of High Treason, and our Misprisions are something more than a mere Misdemeanor. They are more like a Proemunire. And Ross's Rule on the Trial that the greater offence comprizes in it the lesser I think is a just one. By lowering the charge ag^t Franks so much we thought to have had him more securely; and this was the Reason of the G. Jury's returning the Bill for Treason Ignoramus. Shew this to Matlack.

Your most hble Serv^t,

JONA. D. SERGEANT.

P. S. Mr. Atlee desires you may keep in mind his Business.

Directed,

Hon. George Bryan Esq^r, V. presid^t, Philadelphia.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 12th May, 1779.

Sir,

I have the Honor of transmitting to your Excellency, herewith enclosed, a Copy of an Act of Congress of the 7th Inst., for facilitating the Settlement of the late Commissary General Trumbull's & other public accounts.*

And am with great Respect,

Your Excellency's

most obed^t Servant,

JOHN JAY, Presid^t.

Directed,

To His Excellency President Reed.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XL, p. 776.

BLAIR, McCLENACHAN TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Account Sundries wanted for Ship Genl. Green.

800 round shot for the four pounders.

600 Double head Do. Do.

200 Round shot for three pounders.

100 Double Head Do.

50 Round Shot for Six pounders.

50 Double Head Do. for Do.

5 Sheets of Copper.

800 ^{lb} Sheet Lead.

2 Drums & 2 Fifes.

Gentlemen,

Please furnish the above articles for the ship Genl. Green, as they cannot be procured in any of the state stores.

& oblige Gentlemⁿ,

your most obed^t Serv^t,

BLAIR McCLENACHAN.

Mem^a by J. R.

Ord^d That Mr Stiles make immediate Inquiry whether the above Articles, or any of them, can be had from the Continental Commissary of Military Stores, & if so to apply to the Hon^e Board of War for an Order, it being to replace Articles of the same Kind lent to the Continent to go to S. Carolina 2 months since.*

Directed,

To the Honourable The Executive Council, Pres^t.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, May 18th, 1779.

Sir,

When a detachment of Col^l Proctor's Reg^t was ordered to Billingsport and fort Mifflin, an ample supply of ammunition was furnished him, agreeably to his own return. We were therefore not a little surprised to hear, within a day or two, that there was a very great deficiency. Major Forrest and Captain Craig, who commanded at the forts declare that none was used except for the morning and

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 776.

evening guns, and to bring Vessels to agreeably (as they say) to your Excellency's orders ; except a small quantity in firing a few shells for the instruction of the Subalterns and men. Admitting this to be the case, we think there has been a very unnecessary expenditure of Ammunition, as the morning and evening guns at *those places* are perfectly useless, and even ridiculous, considering the smallness of the Garrisons & forts. Such an idle waste were our means more ample, we should be *unwilling* to Supply, but from the state of our Stores we *cannot* do it. This we mention to your Excellency that effectual measures may be immediately taken to prevent a continuance of such waste. We beg leave to suggest whether it is requisite in all cases to bring to, Vessels passing up the river ; of some kinds we conceive there can be no reasonable suspicion of danger, and bringing them to by firing must occasion an unnecessary expence of ammunition, at the same time that it delays the passage of such Vessels.

For your Excellency's information we inclose a Copy of the return of stores delivered Col^d Proctor, and request you would order an immediate return of what remains at the forts and favour us with a copy, that we may know the real deficiencies, and who ought to account for the same. Your Excellency will doubtless take such precautions to prevent any future waste or embezzlement as you shall deem proper ; permitting us to observe that the state of the public magazines requires the greatest economy to be used in the expenditure of Military Stores, to say nothing of the enormous expence at which they are now procured.

We have troubled your Excellency with this letter, supposing you not to have been informed of the abuses complained of, nor of the State of the Public Stores ; knowing your anxiety is equal to ours to preserve with the utmost care the necessary means of defence, and that you would omit no precaution requisite to that end.

Since writing the above we are informed that Capt. McCullough who now commands at Billingsport, finding so great a deficiency, has refused to take charge of the stores there until they are regularly delivered to him ; this we have directed Col^d Proctor to cause to be done forthwith. We are much pleased to see the militia officers take so cautious & prudent a resolution.

We have the honour to be,

With great respect, Your Excellency's
most obed^t servants.

By order of the Board,
TIM. PICKERING.*

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq^r.
War Office.

Indorsed,

Read May 15, 1779.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 779. Also, p. 404 of this.

WM. LYON TO VICE-PRES. BRYAN, 1779.

Carlisle, May 13th, 1779.

Hon^d Sir,

Your Letter giving the Reasons of Council for not complying with the request of Peters Township Petitioners respecting the Commission of the Peace for Mr Maxwell, I received ~~of~~ Mr Hoge, and soon after delivered it to Mr. Johnston, the High Sheriff of this County, who assur'd me he would take due care to shew it to the people therein mentioned. I'm well persuaded he will not neglect. I have not seen him since, therefore can't at this time give any further account thereof, but shall inform how the reasons you mention (which I think very Justifyable) take with the Petitioners and others concern'd, after I come to know it.

We have no account from Pittsburg of any late depredations made there by the Indians, but not so up Sasquehanna; the accounts we have had from thence vary greatly; the last I had yesterday from Justice Brown of Kishacoquillis Valley, who left that the Day before; he says there had been fifteen or seventeen Indians on the South side of the West Branch, and killed a Certain John Sample and his Wife in Buffellow Valley, and that the Inhabitants were left the place; that a Fort near Mr. Sam^l Wallaces were attacked by the Indians, but no acc^t of the Issue; that the kill'd and missing on that Branch he did not particularly hear, but thought it did not exceed twelve or fifteen, if so much, but the people were flying off in fear of a Large Number of the Enemy coming upon them, being afraid that the Militia under Col. Kelly there was not sufficient to Cover them; this account is the most likely to be near the truth of any I have heard, the other former accounts we have had being exceedingly more alarming and not authenticated from any good authority that I could find. Wheat is come to a very great price here; some say 30 Dollars ~~per~~ Bushel, and fifteen pounds asked in some other parts of this County; the Poor people drove from their Habitations I fear must suffer greatly on acc^t of the excessive high price of every article. Mr. Creigh has declined acting as Magistrate, and has resigned to the people, as he says he has no occasion to make a formal Resignation to Council, You'll have an opportunity of talking with himself on the Subject; another is much wanted here, and I should be pleased that one were Commissioned out of the last return made to Council from this Place. I think Mr. John Carson was the next highest on Return to Mr. Laird who was Commissioned; he's a very good man and I think might do very well. Mr. Creigh will satisfy you p'haps on talking the matter over with him more fully.

I have always understood, Sir, that Mariage Licenses were to be given out by the Prothonotaries of the Different Counties, and that

it was an appendage to that particular Office; whether it is an advantage or a Loss to have the Doing that business I don't know, but should be desirous of doing the whole Business which of right appertains to the Office or Offices am Concern'd in at all times; therefore if such Licenses are to be Issued, and I of right should have the doing of it, I hope you'll remember to do that Justice which I have hitherto found you dispos'd to; the Confidence I have in his Excellency the President's firm attachment to Justice & Regularity leaves no room for me to Doubt of his Concurrence in the Measure as shall appear to you both to be right.

I am,

Hon'd Sir,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant,

WILLM. LYON.

Directed,

The Honourable George Bryan, Vice President of the Supreme Exec^{ve} Council, Philadelphia.

fav'd ^{of} John Creigh, Esq^r.

GENL. DU PORTAIL TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

As I hope we have satisfied to the demands of your Excellency and the honorable Council of this State, I have the honour to Inform them that I wish to return to Camp as well as Col. De La Radiere and Mon. de Villefranche, if there services are no longer wanted here.

I have the honour to be,

With the greatest respect, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient

And humble Servant,

DUPORTAIL*

Philadelphia, May 14th, 1779.

His Exce^{lly}., J. Reed, Presid^t of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 776. Vote of thanks &c. for a plan of Del. also, 779. And May 14, page 403 in this Vol.

COL. R. MCCALESTER, TO PRES REED, 1779.

Hanover Town, May 14th, 1779.

Hon. Sir,

I wrote y^r Excelency some days past Respecting the Militia, & the Distressing Prospect of the winter Grain, it Still seems in those parts to appear More Distressing, there is Much more Grain Destroyed by the frost than wass thought, for as the Grain Growes it appears both in Wheat Ry and barley, the latter is s^t to be intirely Killed, the Ry at least half But most think three parts in four the wheat About a forth part. The people is all Exceeding Busey in preparing for Corn Potatoes Buckwheat &c. to Save themselves & Creteers in the Winter there is none like to march in this County as I can finde, under those Circumstancis Iv^t not as yet called on the Next Class on duty. Howerly Expecting an Ans^r to my former letter Which I sent by Cap^t Joans of the Light Dragoons, & which he promised to Deliver. On Sabath Morning the 9th Inst, Col. Stevenson one of the Sub. Lie^t Died Sudently Col. John Carson another of the Sub. Lie^t has sold his place Sometime past, of which I acquainted Council I think in the fall of the year, and he is to set off to Carolina in a few days—there is a Number of Petitions Preparing to be Sent to the Hon. Council to Even be freed from attending Muster untill the fall a Number hath Sent there Petitions adressed to me, as thinking I Could Release them, & I am told every Bata- lion Except those that is Composed Mostly of Quakers are About Sending Petitions to the Hon. Council praying some Relief under the Militia law. Should I Call on the Next Class, and none will leave there farms, Seems Past a Doubt at Present, and should the fines be Lev^d under those Circumstances, I much Dred the Consequencis.

I Believe wass the Assembly Siting there would be Universal Prayer from this County & have heard from Maney other Counties, to allow the Hiering of the young Men to Serve & the Mode they seem most fondest of is for Every Class when Called on, for Each Class which Consist Mostly of 6 to 8 men to finde a good able Boddied man, & Each man in the Class pay his Part, and they seem to think that one hundred such harty Men w^d be worth 500 and take the Classes as they Stand, and w^d not Sinke Money to the State as the Grate part of them do when forsed out. However this Mode Seemes the Most Pleasing at Present to the People & believe there Could be Constantly a supply of 150 or 200 men Kept up in this County Did the Law Permit of it, in the meantime I am Distressed to Know how to act, as long as I do act, as I hope to be Re-

leased by the Hon. Council, by Excepting of my Resignation & appointing some abler hand to Execute the orders of Council.

I am with Much Esteem

Y^r Excelencies

Most ob^t Servant.

R^d M'CALESTER.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r, President of Supraim Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Indorsed,

Read May 21.

CHARLES PETTIT, A. Q. M. G. TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

It is computed that about forty Teams in Lancaster County, about thirty in York County & twenty five in Cumberland will be sufficient for the purposes mentioned in Col. Blaine's Application. I am therefore to request that the Council will be pleased to give Orders for the raising these Teams, which Orders will not however be used unless in Case of necessity.

I have the honor to be

Sir, your most obed^t

hum^t Serv^t,

CHA. PETTIT, A. Q. M. G.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r, President of Pennsylvania.

Col. Pettit:

Philada. 13th May, 1779.

Sir,

I have some time ago given orders to my Assistants at York & Carlisle, to apply to the Quarter Master for a sufficient number of Teams to transport to Harris's ferry Eleven Hundred Barrels of Beef & Pork, twelve Hundred Barrels and five Hundred Kegs Flour, and fifteen Hundred Gallons of rum & Whisky, also my Assistant at Lancaster to send & without delay four Hundred Barrels of Flour to Middleton, they inform me the Quarter Master cannot furnish them

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 2.

with Teams, without an order from the Council to press, you will please to make application to the Council for the Warrent, or adopt such other Measures as you may think prudent to obtain the necessary Waggon.

am with much respect Sir,
your most Obd^t &
most Hble Serv^t

EPH. BLAINE, D. C. G.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

COUNCIL TO GENERAL DU PORTAIL, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, May 14, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honour of enclosing you a Resolution which has passed the Council unanimously. We wish the finances of our State would have admitted a more liberal grant, and beg leave to assure you we shall allways retain a proper sense of your services to the State of Pennsylvania on this occasion.

As Colonel Bull who is to execute the work seems desirous to have some assistance in staking out the ground, we should be obliged to you if convenient to favour his request.

I beg leave to add my personal wishes and respects and assure you that

I am with great respect
Sir, your most obedient

Directed.

General Du Portail.*

* See page 400. also See Colon. Rec., Vol. XL, p. 776. 779.

PRESIDENT REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

Gent.,

Inclosed we send you a copy of a Letter forwarded to us by the Lieutenant of Westmoreland County with the Information that in Pursuance thereof two Companies of 60 Men each are nearly completed & to serve for 6 months, with a Request that the Appointments of the Officers may be confirmed & the Men put under the same Footing as other temporary Troops are. We have delayed any Answer because we were not acquainted with Gen^l McIntosh's powers. But as the Frontiers are in a most deplorable Condition & we find it very difficult to give them effectual Assistance by Militia, we have concluded to support & countenance the Measure. And we are induced thereto more strongly as his Excell^{ty} Gen. Washington has made a Requisition of 600 Militia to cooperate with the troops on the proposed Expedition. We find it impracticable to comply with this Demand in any Season & the Period of 2 months being too short for real service have encouraged these temporary enlistments as being more permanent & producing better Troops. We find that including the 5 Companies already ordered by Congress, there will be about 700 Men raised on this Plan in Westmoreland & Northumberland & probably Bedford may follow the Example, if so they will make up 800 at least.

We also forward to you an Extract of a Letter upon a Subject on which we formerly addressed you & request you will take into consideration whether the Mode suggested by Persons well acquainted with the Circumstances of this County may not be pursued so as to discharge their Militia. It seems to be a general Expectation that the Dragoons at Lancaster might serve the occasional Purpose of Guards & that in so doing they would be more usefully employed than our late Advices from thence inform us they have been.

Your favour of yesterday* has been duly received & as we fully concur with you in the Propriety & Necessity of Economy in all publick Expenditures, shall do every Thing in our Power to promote & encourage it. The firing of Morning & Evening Guns was not by our Directions & we shall order it to be omitted. We suppose the Militia followed the Example of the Troops they relieved. It is necessary that inward bound Vessels should come to at the Fort on many Accounts, but if firing is necessary on such Occasions we think a 4 pounder would be sufficient & the Officer commanding there has applied for one because he thought it might answer all his Purposes. From the Information received a Week ago the Officers of Proctors Reg^t & the Militia were disputing about the Stores, the latter wanted to have a Receipt signed on Time & upon Trust which the other refused without actual Delivery & we have Reason to

* See page 397.

believe that upon inquiry it will appear that the Waste if any was made while the Continental Reg^t was there this inquiry we would wish to be had immediately & have therefore wrote to Capt. McCallogh & when he comes to Town shall send him to you. Assuring you that on all Occasions we shall cheerfully cooperate with you in detecting & punishing any Abuses & Mismanagement from whatever Quarters they may proceed.

I am Gent.

Your most Obed. Hble. Serv.

JOS. REED.

Indorsed,

1779 May 15th. To the Honble Board of War.

COL. THOMAS PROCTOR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, May 15th, 1779.

Sir,

Major Forrest has acquainted me you were desposed to grant an order on the State Clothier for a suit of Cloathing for each Officer in my Regiment, as also to direct Col. Farmer to issue Two months extra matters from his store for y^e same. And as I am directed by a Letter rec^d last evening from General Sullivan to be at Easttown by the 20th instant, hope the above may meet your Excellencys approval as well to permit my Regiment to march on Tuesday next.

I am with Esteem,

your Excellencys Ob^t Servant,

THO^s PROCTOR, Col. P. A.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, President, Pens^l.

COL. JOHN CAROTHERS TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

May 15th, 1779.

Sir,

I have Enclosed my commission of Lieutenant of the county of Cumberland, which you'l please to accept for my resignation of said office, as it neither suits my Inclination nor family circumstances to serve any longer in that business. I am ready to settle my accounts as soon as the law comes up, to Direct the commissioners appointed

for that purpose how to proceed. I am likewise ready to Deliver all the public papers in my hands to any person legally authorized to receive them.

The Militia Ordered by council to Hannabs Town in westmoorland county, have with much Difficulty and Delay, proceeding from various causes, been sent forward.—the ravages of the enemy upon the Susquehanna river, bordering on the fronteers of this county, have in a great measure prevented the militia of three battalions now called to serve at hannahs Town, from turning out. They aludging it very hard for them to be sent away so far and leave their own fronteers and families exposed to the enemy, Who are murdering and burning every week within twenty or thirty miles.—They say they are willing to serve upon their own fronteers, but to be Taken so far away and leave their own families in such a Dangerous Situation, they will not submit to, let the consequences be as it will. to levy fines from Delinquents under these circumstances seems very severe, perhaps council may find some way of relief.

I am Sir, with much respect,

your very Humble Servant,

JOHN CAROTHERS.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, president of the common-wealth of Pennsylvania.

GENL. WASHINGTON TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Head Quarters, Middle
Brook, May 15th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

I have not yet been favoured with an answer to the letter which I did myself the honor to write you on the 27th ult.* Whatever may be the determination of the Council respecting the alternative proposed of the first of June or July for General Arnold's trial, I am anxious to be informed of it, that no time may be lost more than cannot be avoided. If the witnesses are to be called from Carolina—the summon ought to go to them without delay. I have received another letter from General Arnold, pressing for a speedy trial. That Gentleman's situation is very interesting to his character and feelings, and gives him a right to expect from me as a piece of justice, that his fate may be decided as soon as it can be done consistent with a full and free investigation. If he should be found innocent, the sooner he is acquitted the better, if guilty justice cannot take

* See page 351, 377.

place too soon. At the same time that I wish the Council to be assured that I am as unwilling to precipitate as to retard the trial, I am persuaded they will cheerfully enable me to act such a part as will avoid the imputation of unnecessary delay; and will be pleased to afford me the aid requested in my last.

The preparations for the Western expedition are in such forwardness, that I am putting all the troops to be employed in it, in motion. I request the Council to hasten up those which the State is to furnish towards this important undertaking.*

THOMAS FITZSIMONS TO COL. MATLACK, 1779.

Sir,

The Certificate from Mr. Holker as Agent to the Marine of france, was considered as the foundation of the requisition to clear out the Vessell—nor did I think it necessary the owners should at all appear in the matter.

I hope my not signing the application was not Considered as any intentional slight to Counsell—which was far from my intention, but I should be sorry if any informality of that kind would be the means of detaining the Minister of frances dispatches.

I am, Sir,

y^r h^{le} serv^t,

THO^s FITZSIMONS.

May 15, 1779.

Directed,

Col. Matlack.

FROM THE OWNERS.

The Schooner Swan, chartered by John Holker, Esq^r, Agent for the Marine of france, being loaded & ready to depart, the owners pray the Hble Council to give the Necessary directions for clearing her out.

GEO. MEADE & CO.

Philad^a, 15 May, 1779.

* The remainder of this letter appears to have been torn off; leaving neither signature nor address. See letter to him, May 8, page 877.

GEN. HAND TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Wyoming, 15th May, 1779.

Sir,

Your Exc^r has doubtless been informed of the Ravages committed by the Indians on the Frontier of Northumberland in April—these depredations are distressing to every person & must be particularly so to your Exc^r, but I hope to be able to prevent a repetition of them—we have at present about 400 R. & File for duty here, 100 at Fort Jenkins, 100 at Fort Muncy & 70 at Sunbury—the 11th Pennsylvania Reg^t composes the three last. I expect the enemy will have parties on the Frontiers in about ten days, agreeable to their usual Practice, shall then encrease my Scouts, if any thing happens worth troubling you with, will take the liberty of communicating it.

I am Sir, with

much respect your

Exc^r Most obed^t &

Most Hble Serv^t,

EDW^a HAND.

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Exc^y Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the Supreme Exec. Council of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

DRS. RUSH & HUTCHINSON TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To The Honorable the Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

After expressing our acknowledgements to the Honorable Executive Council for appointing us Inspectors of sickly Vessels We beg leave to inform the Council that we have been prevented from executing the Trust reposed in us by the want of a Person known in a former Law of Pennsylvania by the name of a Health Officer whose Business consisted in visiting all ships that came into the Port & (in all Cases the least suspicious) in calling upon one of the Inspectors to examine the Health of the Crew, in order to prevent any contagious Diseases being brought into the City. We are the more induced to make this application to the Council at the present Juncture, as the Citizens of Philadelphia have been lately alarmed by the Crew of the Dean Frigate being landed and lodged amongst them, many of whom it is said labour under Fevers of a contagious Nature.

We beg leave to request the attention of the Council to the ap-

pointment of a Health Officer, & to such Instructions as they shall be pleased to give in the Line of their Duty to their most,

Obedient Servants

JAMES HUTCHINSON.

BENJ. RUSH.

May 15th, 1779.

GEN. DU PORTAIL TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Hon^{ble} Sir,

These Gentlemen and myself, are extremely satisfied to have answered the Views of your Excellency and the Hon^{ble} Council; the marks of satisfaction which they are pleased to show, are dear and precious to us. We beg your Excellency and the Hon^{ble} Council will accept of our grateful thanks.

Col. Delaradiere, an Officer of great Capacity in his profession, is Satisfied to Remain here about a couple of Weeks longer, to lay out the principal Lines of the Fort.

I have the Honor to be

with the greatest respect,

Hon^{ble} Sir your Excellency's

most obedient and

very humble Servant,

DU PORTAIL.

Philadelphia, May y^e 15th, 1779.

Directed,

His Excell^y J. Reed, Esq., Presid^t of y^e State of Pennsylv^a.

PRES. REED TO OFFICER AT BILLINGSPOORT, 1779.

In Council.

Philadelphia, May 17, 1779.

Sir,

The Council having, by their Proclamation, extended the Embargo* on all ships and other vessels until the first day of June next. You are to stop all vessels outward bound unless they produce a special pass from this Council, under the less seal of the state.

The Board of War having represented to this Council that some

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 782, 783, 784.

difficulties have arisen in transferring the Stores at Billingsport & Mud Island, from Col'l Proctor to you. It will be proper for you to explain the matter to that Board immediately.

With due respect I am,

your humble servant,

J. REED, Pres^t.

Directed,

To Officer commanding at Billingsport and Mud Island.

HENRY FISHER TO PRES. REED 1779.

Sir,

I received your letter by Captain Roach, the contents you may Relie on shall be strictly observed by me, and I shall take Care to give you the Earliest Advice upon the appearance of any number of Ships that is seen from this Place.

I likewise have been over to Cape May with Captain Roach, and agree'd with Mr. Abraham Bennet to Doe the like at their Cape. Mr. Bennet is a very good man, and his house Commands a fine Prospect of the Sea to the Eastward. I have the Pleasure to inform you that there has not been seen from here any of the British Cruicers this two weeks Past.

I am Sir,

with due respect,

your very humble servant,

HENRY FISHER.

Lewis, May 18, 1779.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., Philadelphia. @ Captain Isaac Roach, Public Service.

JOS. KENDALL TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Sir,

A party of Gentlemen, of which I made one, having received some intelligence of the rout of the Smiths, who murdered Mr. Boyd, went yesterday Even'g in pursuit of them, into the Jerseys, (accompanied by Mr. Taylor,) & upon the Banks of Oldmans Creek surrounded the House of a Mr. Hewes, who they took Prisoner &

found Smith there in his Possession. From his confession & a variety of other circumstances, it appears that he & several others were privy to their escape. We flatter ourselves that we have at least fallen in with a link of that chain, which will lead to further discoveries.

In consequence of this we have apprehended one other, and momentarily expect two more. The Gentlemen have desired me to give you this Information, & to assure your Excellency that they were actuated by no other motive than serving their Country, & bringing such Persons to Punishment, as none of 'em knew of any reward at the time they undertook the expedition; for my own part, should we succeed in our attempt, I disclaim every Idea of it. We are greatly fatigued, having marched on foot the whole Night, & but just returned, which will, I flatter myself, apologise for the incorrectness of this address.

The Number of disaffected were so great that we could not continue our pursuit, not having sufficient data to proceed further.

I am, in behalf of the whole,

your Excellency most

obed't h'ble serv't,

JO. KENDALL.

Chester, May 18th, 3 o'clock, P. M. Excuse paper.

The Parties have not yet been examined by a Magistrate.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., Philadelphia. Public service.

COL. FRANCIS JOHNSTON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Camp, at Millstone, (?) May 18, 1779.

May it please Your Excell'y,

I beg leave to assure your Excell'y that many of the very best officers in our Line, are still extremely destitute of Cloathing, & unless some steps are immediately taken to supply them with this Article, I am but too confident, we shall very soon lose many of them.

The good Intentions of your Excell'y & of the State towards us, we with pleasure acknowledge, but we cannot hesitate to say, that these Intentions are in some measure frustrated by the persons employed to carry them into execution.

Some of the necessaries lately sent us by Mr. Farmer are totally unfit for use, others of them are but very indifferent. And not-

withstanding the promise of the State, to supply us with Cloathing, we have not yet experienced any good effects arising from this promise.

I trust your Excell'y will not esteem me forward in writing thus openly to you on a subject which so immediately relates to our comfort & convenience.

I am not one of those people who are fond of endless' complaining, & if I were, I should not think them prudent at this time, as I am certain nothing but the *Harmony, Fortitude, & Virtue* of the Army can possibly save the Country; but I must say, my apprehensions are great respecting the present state of the Army and consequently of the Country. Your Excell'y well knows that our Pay is merely nominal at present, & the depreciation of the currency becomes greater every Day, & the necessaries of life scarcer, & consequently dearer; however, this is a subject on which I should not wish to dwell, besides tis needless to mention things to your Excell'y with which you are already so well acquainted.

As the Division at present has no other Commanding Officer than myself, I hope your Excell'y will impute the liberty I have taken to my zeal for the service at large, as well as my particular attachment to the Penn^a Line.

I have the honor to be,
your Excell'ys very h'ble serv't,

F. JOHNSTON.

P. S. We should be happy to have your Excellencys instructions respecting the Distribution of a number of shirts, which the State sent us by Captain Lang.

F. J.

FRANCIS WADE TO COL. JOHN MITCHELL, 1779.

Wilmington, 18th May, 1779.

4'o'clock—Afternoon.

Dear Sir,

I have this moment received an account ~~of~~ the Express, that takes this that the Enemy have landed and taken possession of Portsmouth in Virginia.

I am Sir,
your humble servant,

FRANCIS WADE, D. Q. M. G'l

P. S. The accounts I have by letter, says that they were on their march to Suffolk with 4000 Men, and that it was generally thought that they would proceed to Baltimore.

Directed,

To Col. John Mitchell, D. Q. M. G'l

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress,

18 May, 1779.

The Committee to whom were referred sundry letters from Leonard Albony & others, report,

"That being convinced from a variety of concurrent testimony & circumstances the distresses of the Bermudians are not exaggerated, and that any provisions which may arrive at their Island will be faithfully and entirely applied to their use; having also collected a number of important vouchers in proof of their warm attachment to these States, & being moreover assured by the Minister of France that his Court will cordially acquiesce in any measures which the policy of Congress may adopt in behalf of those suffering Islanders, they are of opinion that notwithstanding the resolutions of Expediency of 7th Instant, some mode of immediate relief to that distressed people ought to be adopted, & therefore do earnestly recommend the following resolution.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Executive Powers of the States of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia & North Carolina respectively, to permit one thousand Bushels of Indian corn to be exported from each of the said States, for the relief of the distressed inhabitants of those islands, and that it be required of the Captains of any Vessels on board which the said Corn shall be laden to return to the respective executive powers aforesaid, Certificates of the delivery and faithful appropriation of the said provision, under the signature of at least two of the principal Inhabitants of the said Islands.

On the question to agree to the said report,

Resolved, in the affirmative.

Extract from the Minutes.

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI. p. 782.

PREST. REED TO COL. R McCALISTER, 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a, May 18th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 4th Inst, has been duly received, it gives us the most sensible Concern to find that notwithstanding the wholesome & beneficial Laws provided for the common Safety & Protection, and at a Time when the Execution of them is the most necessary for the Relief of our suffering Brethren on the Frontiers, those who are blessed with safe & secure Dwellings should refuse to give them the small Assistance required. If they were connected with us by no other Ties than Fellow Men, & Christians, one would have thought a large County like yours would at all Events have given them the support desired, Nor are we the less surprised that York County should require a different Law from other Parts of the State: in other Places the Militia Law is found salutary & effectual your County concurred in making it, & must in a little Time however secure they may now think themselves feel the Consequences of despising & refusing it, as it cannot but happen that the Inhabitants who are now a Frontier to you finding that your County will do nothing for them in the Hour of Distress will retire farther in & in a little Course of Time you will feel in your own County the Calamities which you refuse to repel in others. We would wish you to lay these things before the Sub Lieutenants & other Persons & also seriously reflect in what Point of Light you will be view'd by the other Parts of the State, if you refuse obedience to Laws at all Times necessary but particularly so at this Time when a desolating War is actually raging on each side of the State. You say "they seem exceeding willing to have the young Men go if there was a law for so doing." You must be sensible the making of new Laws does not lay with us, our Duty is to see those executed which have been made by the Representatives of the People for common Benefit. And as the Militia Law now is enforced with sufficient Penalties, we have forwarded the late Supplement & must call upon you to proceed therein in a regular Manner, not only imposing but actually levying the Fines upon Delinquents & if any farther Difficulties should ensue we request the most early Information, that suitable Remedies may be applied. We cannot but believe that those who are well affected to the Liberties & Independence of America & more especially those who are attached to the present Government will give you their fullest Aid & Support, as they must be sensible that nothing can so effectually encourage the common Enemy & weaken Government as to find a whole County drawing itself off from a most important Duty not only of Society but on this occasion even of Humanity itself. And we trust there are none so wicked as to discountenance the Service from any mean

& unworthy Views of Party. We would wish you to address yourself to the Reason & good Sense of those who have Weight & Confidence with the People, & we flatter ourselves that a proper Reflection upon the Consequences of such Proceed^{ts} will have its due Weight & bring about a Change of Sentiments & Conduct.

You have expressed a Wish to resign and we should be willing to comply with your Request if it is really disagreeable for you to continue longer, but we think the Time unsuitable. As there has been a Relaxation of the Law & Indulgence given both in the Mode of calling out Men & remitting the Fines which (however well intended) has laid the Foundation of this Weakness in Government, we trust you will see the evident Propriety of continuing in the Office till the Efficacy of the Law is in some Degree restored & your Successor find himself in a Capacity to execute it. And we hope that exerting yourself with Steadiness & Firmness & availing yourself of the kind Offices of those who will be disposed to support Law & Government you will find less Difficulty than you have done hitherto—But should the Office be inconvenient to you afterwards we shall not press a longer Continuance.

In the mean Time it is our clear & explicit Sense & so we direct, that you immediately proceed with the Classes in Time to perform the present Service. That if the Class does not conform to the Law the Delinquents be fined & the Fines duly collected without Favour or Affection & having a due Regard to Inability of Body & Estate meeting in the same Person & not construing the Law to favour either singly, and it is our clear opinion that all Persons liable for former Delinquencies be called upon & in like Manner compelled to make due Submission to the Laws by paying the sums for which they stand now liable. This will be also doing Justice & giving Satisfaction to those who are now called on for a regular Discharge of their Duty & should a total Failure be the Consequence we would wish you & the Sub Lieutenants to make a formal Representation thereof to us containing the Reason given by those who refuse Compliance, That it may be laid before the Assembly at their next Session.

It has been on this Occasion peculiarly unfortunate that the Example of York has influenced Lancaster & we fear may reach Cumberland for they say very naturally & Justly why shall this Service be imposed on us when our Brethren & Fellow Subjects in York remain at Home attending their private Business. As to the State of the Militia in this City & the adjacent Counties it never has wore a more flourishing Aspect since the Change of Govern^{mt} the Law is executed & we have found no Difficulty in drawing out the Classes, or such Part of them as were necessary for actual Service. We had Detachments all last Fall in the Service of Congress. The Forts on the River are now garrisoned by the Militia who have cheerfully left their Homes & given up their Business for 2 Months. We hope when all these things are laid before the People & duly considered a better Spirit will manifest itself.

We shall be glad to hear from you on this important Subject as soon as possible,

& am Sir your

Ob. Hble Serv^t,

J. R.

P. S. We mean that all those who were called last Summer & upon whom Fines were imposed which yet continue unpaid be collected and when upon an Appeal the Fine has been mitigated, the mitigated Fine to be called for & in future the law strictly complied with. Whatever Irregularity there may have been by the former Construction of the Law so as to remit the Fine or any Part on any mistaken Principle we suppose cannot now be remedied, but it is highly reasonable that if those are compelled to pay the whole Fine where there has been none remitted, that what was not remitted be paid up fully

Directed,

To Colonel Richard M^cCallister.

PRES. REED TO WILLIAM HENRY, 1779.

Sir,

The Gentlemen of the Council have thought it might be beneficial to the publick to solicit the Attention of Congress to the unhappy State of our Money—We have therefore signed the Petition it is also signed by the Magistrates of the City, we would desire you to get it signed by the Field Officers of the Militia & then to return it to us, that it may be laid before the other Gentlemen of the City in some proper Way.

I am Sir, your

Obed. Hble Serv^t,

JOSEPH REED,

President.

Indorsed—May 18, 1779.

To Wm. Henry, Esq., Lieutenant of the City of Philad^a.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 19th May, 1779.

Sir,

I have the Honor of transmitting to your Excellency herewith enclosed a Copy of an Act of Congress of the 18th Inst, for affording Relief to the distressed Inhabitants of Bermuda.

And am with great

Respect your Excellency's

most obed^t Servant,JOHN JAY, Presid^t.**Directed,*

His Excellency President Reed.

ROBERT MORRIS TO PRES. REED, 1779,

Philad^a, May 19th, 1779.

Sir,

Another parcell consisting of Fifty muskets are arrived from Cape Francois by the Sloop Ranger, Capt. Hunn &ds whereof on acc^t of Pennsylvania & &d intended for Maryland. If you please to direct the proper officers to receive Thirty three of them, they are ready to be delivered and I will settle the freight for which shall render an account in due time.

Having the Honor to

remain your Excy's

most hble Serv^t,ROB^t MORRIS.†*Directed,*

To His Excy Jos. Reed, Esq., President of the Honble Sup^{re} E. Council, Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 782, 783, and page 418 of this.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 751.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

War Office, May 19, 1779.

Sir,

The military stores designed for the Indian expedition are to be conveyed from hence to Estherton, on Susquehannah, from whence we expected they would be guarded by Col. Proctor's regt, but this is now ordered to Easton, to take charge of the field pieces which are to go from thence directly to Wioming. Upon representing the matter to Genl. Sullivan, he returned an answer that he supposed the six companies of militia, raising in this state, would be sufficient for the purpose, and might be ordered accordingly; tho' he had not conceived any great danger in the passing of the stores on that route. As we are ignorant what state these companies are in, and they are subject to your direction, we must request the necessary orders may be given for the purpose. Lt Col. Forrest will accompany the military stores, & take command of the escort, if no superior officer is present. We expected, ere this time, that all the stores would have been, at least, on their way to Estherton; but for want of waggons at least three quarters of them remain in this city; and of the two brigades already gone the horses, we are informed, have greatly suffered for want of forage.

We have the honour to be,

With great regard,

Your most obed^t servants,

By order of ye Board.

TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq.

War Office.

GENERAL POTTER TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Penns Valley, May 19th, 1779.

Dr Sir,

I Received a letter from Col. Hunter with your Compliments and two papers. He Informs me that a great number of the Inhabitants of that part of the County have left the County since the last stroake the savedges gave us, and many more are agoing. I have Just Heard that they have dun great dammage in Westmoreland County, and last week there was some Indians seen at or near Franks town.

I think they are allways on some part of our frontier. In my letter of the third Instant I Informed you of Capt. Corbey's coming to this place, he left this last sabath, with ten of his Hors, leving his Lieut^r and seven hors. He is gone to Buffler Valley; in a few days I expect the Lieut. to go off after him. Then we will have left us in this Valley one Lieut. and 15 men, in three forts, as a guard, and on the fourth of June there time will be expired, then, it is more than probable, we, in this Valley, will have to fley untill the army goes out, if there is not some Militia ordered us. I can't help being surprised that there has been no Militia sent to that part of Bedford County that Joynes us; neither to Franks town, nor Standing stone, except that small company of Buchanan's Battalion, that would not go to Fort Roberdeau. I am Informed that the people about Franks town are fleying from there Habitations. That small company of 30 men has encourredged the people of standing stoan Valley to stand as yet, altho' it is too few men for that place.

Sir, I would not be understood as dictating to you, but I think the Back parts of Cumberland should be ordered to guard there one frontier, and the people would do it much freer than march to a distance, leaving there famleys in daneger. It may be said that Cumberland County has no frontier, I acknowledge it, if County lines is ment for a guard, but if inhabittance is ment they may be said to be fruntier settlers, for there is no Inhabittance Northerly of the back parts of them but Penn's Valley and standing stoan Valley, and they are in forts, and if not assisted with Guards will be obliged to leve them; for my one part I am sorry I have not mov'd off one year ago.

I am well Convinced that you do every thing in your power for the back Inhabittance. It is imposable for you to know the situation of every part of the Country, and if you did it is Imposoble to defend against such an Enemy.

I am, Dear Sir,

With the greatest Esteem,

Your Excellency's most obed't

Humble Servant,

JAS. POTTER.

P. S. This Valley is at too great a distance from sunsberey to be supleyed with the standing Army, and they have enuff to do nearer the town.

J. P.

Directed,

On public service.

To His Excellency, Joseph Reed, President of the state of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

War office, 19th May, 1779.

Sir,

I have been favour'd with your Letter of this day, and am directed by the Board to request you will present their thanks to Council for the attention they have been pleased to shew to the matters contained in it. Orders have already been issued to the proper officers to take charge of the horses; and an inquiry directed to discover and punish the delinquent.

The commission for Mr. Murran* shall be prepared with all possible dispatch.

I am, Sir, with proper respect,
Your very obed^t &
Most h^{ble} Serv^t,

P. SCULL, Sec'y.

T. Matlack, Esq., Sec'y to the Supreme Executive Council.

CHARLES PETTIT TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 20th May, 1779.

Sir,

I take the liberty of inclosing to your Excellency a Copy of a Letter I have this day received from the Board of War, directing an immediate Application to the Government of the State for Waggon's to transport a quantity of stores to the Susquehanna. The number of Teams wanted I understand to be about 80 to 100. Measures have been taken to obtain the voluntary service of a competent number of teams for this business, and I yet flatter myself they will appear in the course of a few days; but as this is not absolutely certain, and the call of the Board of War is expressed in strong Terms, I think it necessary to request an order to the Waggon Masters of Philadelphia, Chester & Bucks to furnish one hundred Teams for this purpose. The order, however, will not be used if the Teams can be otherwise

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 782.

procured, which I hope will be the case, as I would studiously avoid using even legal compulsion unnecessarily.

I have the honor to be,

With great Respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

Humble Servant,

CHA. PETTIT,

A. Q. M. Gen^l.

Directed,

His Excellency, The President of the supreme executive Council of Pennsylvania.*

BOARD OF WAR TO CHARLES PETTIT, 1779.

War Office,

May 20th, 1779.

Sir,

The board are extremely uneasy under the Situation of the Stores destined for the Susquehannah which now wait for nothing but the Means of Transportation. We therefore direct you to procure Waggons immediately by application to the Government of the State, if your prospect of other wise obtaining them have failed you lest the Service should not only suffer but the Expedition totally fail for the want of Supplies. If the Troops arrive in a dangerous Country before they have the means of operating or even defending themselves in case of attack, you will judge of the Consequences.

We are Sir,

very respectfully

your very obed^t Servant

RICHARD PETERS.

By order.

(Copy.)

Directed,

To Charles Pettit, Esq^r., A. Q. M. Gen^l.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 2, also the following letter.

PRES. REED TO DELEGATES OF PENNS'A IN CONGRESS, 1779.

May 20, 1779.

Honble Delegates of Penns^a in Congress.

Gentlemen,

The inclosed Petition from many respectable Citizens was this Morning delivered to this Board with a Request that if it met with our Approbation we would recommend it to your Countenance & Support in Congress. As we perfectly concur in the Sentiment therein expressed & wish to see this important Branch of Jurisprudence established on a permanent & acceptable Footing we do recommend the Petition to your special Attention & wish you to convey to the Hon^e Congress our concurrent Desires on this important subject.

I am Gentlemen

with the greatest Respect & Regard

Your Obed^t Hbb^l Serv^t*

Council Chamber, May 20, 1779.

Directed,

To Delegates of Pennsy^a.

T. LEAMING & G. HENRY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

The inclosed Petition we apprehend to be of the utmost Consequence to the Publick as well as Individuals, altho there are now a Number of Vessels in this Port very suitable for Privateers, and many of which their owners would wish to fit out as such, yet are discouraged from it, until the Court of Appeals shall be established on a more regular Foundation, we therefore pray that Council will please to recommend to the Delegates of this State to move for the Consideration of it in Congress as soon as Business of greater Importance will possibly admit.

We have the Honour to to be

your Excellency's most

Obedient & most Hbb^l Serv^t*

THO'S LEAMING.

GEORGE HENRY.†

Philadelphia, May 20th, 1779.

Directed.

To His Excellency President of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 788—petition not found.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 788.

PRES. REED TO COL. PROCTOR, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, May 20th, 1779.

Sir,

I duly received your Favour by Mr. Brown, & am sorry to learn that the Gentlemen of your Corps are dissatisfied after the very indulgent Notice which has been taken of them by every Branch of Government. I fear such Sentiments will lead to an Apprehension that they are not to be long satisfied & occasion an Indifference to do it at all. You observe they are jealous & discontented—we are sorry for it, but should be much more so if they had just Foundation. We should have hoped that the Ease they have enjoyed for near 12 Months with their Families & Friends would have inclined them to have borne patiently some Deficiencies which in the present state of Things is unavoidable. The other Regiments who have been out on the Frontiers or in Camp we think would tax us with Injustice & Partiality if we gave a Preference to you who have been taken last on the Line, for I assure you there are many Officers in Camp who have never had any Cloaths from the State & who do not make Appearances sufficiently decent to appear on the Parade.

We should be happy if we had Cloaths for you all, as it would relieve us from much Importunity & Complaint, but that you who have just left the City & know the Difficulties & Expence of procuring these Things should be so urgent shows that you do not sufficiently attend to the Wants and Necessities of the Country. We cannot create Cloth & other Necessaries, & hope you will not give us Cause to repent our putting the Assembly on Measures so favourable to you. Instead of such incessant Application we should be glad to see a Spirit of Economy & Frugality more universally prevalent in all Ranks, as well military as civil, as it will be impossible otherwise to carry on the War.

I have said this much in the general, but when I consider that contrary to my general Practice of never yielding to Importunity, I once told you that if after considering it your Officers chose to take their Proportion of the Cloth then in the Store they might do it. But at the same Time informing that it was Cloth which had been dyed & not of the first Quality, & that as they were going into the Woods it might be better to postpone it. I say after mentioning these Things & hearing no more afterward till your Letter, what could be concluded but that they were satisfied to wait till better Cloth should arrive & they should return to a Country where a handsome Appearance would be more desirable. However if they really desire it we shall not object to doing by them what we did lately by Col Hartleys, viz., to send 12 Suits of the Cloth here such as it is.—For there is nothing we more anxiously wish than that

equal Justice be done to all, & we hope the Gentlemen will dismiss all such ill grounded Apprehensions, & be assured that nothing gives us more Pleasure than to execute the Measures proposed for their Relief.

I am Sir, with Esteem,
your most obed. & very Hble serv.

Directed,

To Colonel Thomas Proctor.

NOTICE OF COUNCIL TO OFFICERS RESPECTING EMBARGO,
1779.

Sir,

The Council have issued a proclamation this day, revoking and annulling the Embargo on shipping, of which you will please to take notice and govern your proceeding accordingly.

May 20, 1779.

Directed.

To F. Phyle, Esq^r, & also to Officers commanding at Billingsport & Mud island.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

In Council, Philad^a, May 20th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Your favour of this Day* has been laid before the Council, and with Respect to the Escort of the Stores from the Susquehanna we beg Leave to observe that Gen^l Sullivan must have misapprehended the Disposition of our Troops. We sometime ago ordered 250 Militia to march to the Relief of the Frontiers of Westmoreland & Bedford—of these a Part only has proceeded, Difficulties having arisen with Regard to the Residue, which we are now endeavouring to obviate; but it is not practicable for us to alter their Destination without giving just & general Discontent to the distressed People in those Parts. We presume he must mean the 5 Companies of Rangers, but these are not compleated or in any Respect so organized & provided as to march on immediate Duty—besides they are scattered

* See page 421.

that it would be a Work of much Time, Difficulty & Expence to collect them for this Purpose. A Member of our Board, who has lately been at Sunbury, & is perfectly acquainted with the Circumstances of that Country, is of Opinion that the Stores may go in perfect Safety from the Enemy as far as Sunbury, where Gen^l Hand is posted, as Gen^l Washington informs us, for the purpose of forwarding Stores. We would also beg Leave to inform you that under the Q^r Master's Orders 7 Companies of Men have been raised on the great Pay of 120 Doll. $\text{\pounds}$ month, $1\frac{1}{2}$ Ration $\text{\pounds}$ Day, & a Suit of Cloaths—this liberal Allowance has in a Manner destroyed all ordinary recruiting in that County; they are to be employed as Battoemen, but being regularly enlisted & arranged in Companies, we should hope that with proper Caution to the Officers they might take Charge of these Stores & proceed to Sunbury. But as the Terms of Law cannot be complied with, & the State of the Country in point of Tillage requires the utmost Attention, we do not think it will be practicable to procure Militia in any season for the Business. We find the keeping the Militia at Lebanon & Lancaster so long has had unhappy Effects on the minds of the People, & has produced several bad Consequences in that Service.

With Respect to the Waggon we assure you this is the first Intimation we have had that any were wanted; we shall allways give every Aid & Support in our Power—but you must be sensible that when Laws are provided to regulate any species of publick Duty that the Terms cannot be dispensed with. When the Q^r Master last Week made a regular Application to us in less than half an Hour he had the necessary Orders from us; & a similar Attention will be paid in future, allways presuming that as this Service is very burthensome, & especially at this Season of the Year that the Department will make its utmost Exertions before it calls for collateral Aid. We are informed that there are Numbers of Waggon at Lebanon, Pottsgrove, Eastherton, & some at other Places, which were lately unemployed. We do not know the Arrangement of the Department, & therefore do not mention this as importing any Blame on any Person or Officer; they may be removed for some special Service, but while they are unemployed the People will think it hard to be forced from their Farms.

As to the Forage when we consider the Consumption of it in many Instances, & the great Allowances made to the Troops by some D^r Q^r Masters, we cannot be surprized at the Failure. If our Information is sent from Lancaster, a few such Regiments of Horse would exhaust the Country. A stricter Economy is indispensable to reconcile the People to necessary Expenditures.

I am Gent.

Your Obed. Hbl. Ser.

P. S. Our Officers at the Fort on an oeconomical Principle have requested the Loan of a 4 pounder which we beg you to indulge them with untill ours come from Lancaster—to be delivered to Capt. McGinley.

PRES. REED TO COL. R. McCALISTER, 1779.

Philad., May 21, 1779.

Sir,

Having answered your Favour of the 9th Inst^t very fully,* little remains but to acknowledge your second Letter of the 14th Inst^t,† & to express our Concern as well for the unfavourable appearances of the Grain as the Consequences which are deduced from it. We have considered both the Letters with the attention they deserve, but cannot find any Powers lodged with us to dispense with the Laws of the State in favour of one County. Our Duty appears very clear & plain, viz: to call for the Execution of the Laws, & if those who are to receive the Benefit of Law & Government upon Obedience, we have discharged our Duty, & they must stand answerable to their Country & suffering Friends for all Consequences. We should be sorry the good People of your County should trouble themselves with preparing Petitions to us to dispense with their mustering, as a very little Reflection must show them that it is not in our Power to grant any such Indulgence, & we are very well persuaded the Assembly will not do it, as other Counties may justly claim the like Favour, or would think it hard to have paid Obedience to a Law from which you would be exempt. We much lament the early Countenance given to this reluctant spirit, & hoped, after what had passed, that a clear & rigorous Execution of the Law would have taken Place, as we are fully satisfied, & we think you must be so too, that temporizing & yielding to the first Innovations has laid the Foundations of all this Irregularity & Weakness, & we most sincerely wish that you had adopted the Principle on which we act, viz: to follow the Laws & abide the Consequences. That the Fine will be levied & collected sooner or later we cannot doubt, the other Part of the State will never permit one County to exempt itself from the publick Burthens, while it partakes of the Benefits of Government, & therefore it would be well to consider whether a chearful Obedience will not be a wiser Course. But we despair of obtaining this, if the Gentlemen of Influence do not exert themselves & set the Consequences forth in a proper Manner. In the mean Time we must, in Justice to ourselves, inform our unhappy Brethern of the Frontiers that we had, in due Course of Law, called for assistance to them, & done every Thing in our Power to procure it, but that York County setting the Example of Disobedience, & having no Regard to their Distresses, declined the Support required, & left them to fall a Sacrifice to the Enemy. Lancaster, we are informed, had actually prepared to march when the account from York reached them, on which, notwithstanding the fullness of the Muster & their Preparation, they now hang back.

* See pages 367, 414.

† See page 401.

As to the raising Companies we have not Authority to make any such Composition for Non Compliance with the Law, & we have had too much Experience of the Fallacy of such Engagement to depend upon that Mode producing better Men than the other; we know that on such Occasions any Men are taken. With Respect to your Offer of Resignation, again repeated, we beg you to reflect upon the State of Affairs, & what Respect a Sacrifice would have of enforcing Laws which have been neglected. Our Ideas are that the Pilot should carry the Ship thro' the storm before he gives up the Helm. When Vigour & Energy are restored to the Service, & the Militia Law put on the same Footing as in other Counties, we shall not press a Continuance in the Office if disagreeable to you, but we cannot see any Prospect of resting Things to the State, we wish to see them, but by firm & spirited Conduct on your Part, aided by the Whigs & Friends to the Government around you. We wish you to make the Experiment. Mr. Thompson now going Home for a short Time, we have requested him to spend some Time in the County, & to him must refer you for farther advice, &c.,

I am Sir,

Your most obed.

& very h'ble serv't.

Directed,

To Colonel Richard M^cCallister, Lieutenant of York County.

PRES. REED TO MAJ. GEN. SULLIVAN, 1779.

In Council, Philad.,

May 21, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 11th Inst.* came to Hand the 15th, & has been considered with the Attention it deserves. The Term, *impressing*, at first led us into some Difficulties, & has been the principal Reason why an immediate Answer was not given. By the Laws of the State, which have been in this Respect found very salutary, the Waggon Service is form'd into a regular System somewhat resembling the Militia Waggon Masters appointed in each County, subordinate to a Waggon Master Genl, who receives his Orders from this Board. From hence has proceeded a Regularity of Duty less burthensome to the People & more effectual to the Service. Former Powers given to the Military & to the Q^r Masters having been in some Instances misused, they have been retrenched by Degrees, so that little now remains with them but to make Application, in which Case the Authority of this Board has always been readily given. We are sensible that Cases

* See page 388.

may happen when the sending to us for Powers will be attended with Inconvenience; but this is one of the Consequences which has flowed from Abuses of Confidence, & can now only be remedied by Foresight & Care in the Application, & Dispatch in the Execution. —When, therefore, we received your Favour requesting Powers to the Dr Q^r Master to impress, we found ourselves embarras'd with the Difficulty of complying with the Law, & at the same Time answering your Expectations. But M^r Pettit, Assist. Q. M. G^t, explained it to us as only a Mistake of Expression, & having since made an Application in Form, we have & shall do every Thing in our Power without distressing the Country too much, to call forth a sufficiency of Waggon for the Transportation of the Stores, &c.—But we cannot help disclosing our Wishes that the Q^r Masters had on this Occasion, & would in future by a proper Forecast enable us to make a seasonable Provision; for it cannot be expected that where the Forms of Law are to be complied with, & Waggon collected from various Quarters, that immediate & instant Supply can be procured on the Notice of a few Hours.—As to any extraordinary Powers to be vested in the Dr Q^r Masters, it is so repugnant to the general Sense of the People, & of the Assembly's expressed in several late Laws, that we cannot think of it but in Case of the last Necessity—and even then we are sorry to say we cannot repose Confidence sufficient in the Dr Q^r Master of that County, or any of his Assistants, to clothe them with discretionary Authority in this Matter. We have for above a Year past advised the Gentlemen at the Head of the Department of this Difficulty, & that at some Day or another they would experience the bad Effects of it—they are therefore now responsible for any Obstructions which may arise on this Score. We have great Reason to fear that should we attempt it, instead of promoting the Service it would have a contrary Effect, the Prejudices, whether well or ill founded, being too deeply rooted to be removed so as to facilitate the Service. Indeed, for this Purpose it is Matter of Concern to us that the Gentlemen of the Department should expect it from us after seeing the printed Journal of Congress of the 23^d Jan^y last respecting this Gentleman; & we personally knew that the whole Influence of his Department has been invariably employed to disgrace and overturn this Governm^t. Confidence lost by a Series of improper & irregular Conduct can only be restored by a Series of contrary Conduct—and tho', as on former Occasions, it may be thought and represented to the Commander in Chief & yourself that the Necessity of the Service would now require a Waiving of any Objections from us, we beg Leave to assure you, that in our Opinion the publick Service will be best promoted by depending wholly on those who do enjoy the Favour & Confidence of the Country, as in Governments founded immediately on the Authority of the People, tho' Exertions of Power may answer an occasional Purpose, they leave Weakness & Disgust behind. In the present Exigency, therefore, we have endeavoured to obviate the Difficulty

& advance the Service by entrusting the discretionary Power with yourself. But as it is not to be presumed that you can have so perfect an Acquaintance with the Country & the State of Things as may be necessary to form a Judgment, in all Cases, of the Extent of its Capacity & Exertions, we have directed the Waggon Master of the County of Northampton to attend you when you shall call for him, & if it should be necessary for you to draw any Assistance from Berks & Bucks County, & you think proper to avail yourself of the Knowledge of the Waggon Masters of those Counties, they will also wait upon you. Several good Consequences may result from this Condescension, as you will have an Opp^r to make them sensible of the Necessity of exerting themselves, & feeling the Duty thus immediately imposed without the Intervention of 3^d Persons with whom they do not accord, they will be induced to yield a more cheerful Obedience. And we flatter ourselves that should you have Opp^r or Occasion to consult with any of the Members of Assembly, or any other Persons of Weight & Influence in the County, they will readily use it to advance your Wishes & the Good of the Service. For be assured, Sir, nothing would give us more Pleasure than to see the Expedition go forward with Alacrity, & your Exertions terminate in the good of the Country & your own Honour. It being our determined Resolution to give you every Assistance in our Power. In the mean Time the exhausted State of the Country, the great Supplies drawn from this State for the Waggon Service to the Continental Army, the Invasion of the Enemy, the Disaffection of too many among us, & the Disgust arising from the Irregularities of the Staff Officers in many Instances, & the necessary Pillar of the Country, are Circumstances that will plead strongly with you to make all candid Allowances, & favour the Inhabitants as much as possible, not depending too implicitly on the Representations of Persons, who sometimes for their own Ease, & sometimes from other Motives, call for Assistance without making any necessary Exertions themselves, & unwilling to take the Course prescribed by Law, and seeking to do without it. All necessary Deficiencies we shall most cheerfully and readily supply; & being thus prolix that being fully possessed of our Sentiments & Views, a mutual Confidence may continue, from which the fairest Prospect of Success will arise.

With the most sincere Wishes for your Success, & much Respect,

I remain, Sir,

Your Obed. Hbble. Serv.

JOS. REED.

P. S.—We have requested Mr Pettit to give us the specific Number of Waggon that we might apportion them in the adjoining Counties, but he does not think himself authorized or enabled to do it, we have therefore concluded to furnish you with sundry blank Warrants to be used occasionally, & tho' we are really concern'd to burthen you with so inferior a Duty we have not been able to devise any other Mode so effectual; in this View you will please to consider & excuse

it. M^r Morgan the D^r Q^r Master of Berks County, will, we doubt not, give you any Information & Assistance in his Power & may be fully depended upon.

Directed.

To the Honble. Major Gen^l Sullivan.

PRES. REED TO COL. ARCHIBALD LOCHRY, 1779.

Phil. May 21, 1779.

Sir,

Your favour of the 1st Inst.* would have been answered immediately if the Express had not on delivering it withdrawn himself so that we have never been able to discover him since. His Anxiety to receive a Sum of Money for his Services the Inst. of his Arrival & without any Sort of Acc^t having been check'd—the he was at the same Time told that he would be considered before he left Town may probably have disgusted him, delayed your Letters and the Money & put us to the Expence of procuring a special Messenger. It is a constant Practice for those who employ these People to agree with them for their Services & we would recommend it to you in future least the same Accident may happen again, as we cannot judge sufficiently of the Value of their Services. I now proceed to answer your Favour particularly.

With Respect to the Inhabitants being put under Pay & Rations by a Vote of the County we confess we do not perfectly understand it nor who is to provide them. It is hardly to be expected that the Continental Commissary will victual the County out of the publick Stores & we have no such Authority nor the Means of executing it. We therefore suppose it can only mean such as are called out into actual Service in the Militia. These doubtless will be intitled but we see no Possibility of extend^g it farther as every County may in like Manner order itself under Pay & Rations when the Calamities of the County are great—we cannot therefore till we understand it more perfectly say anything farther on this Point.

It has been no small Mortification & Disappoint^{mt} to us that notwithstanding we gave all the proper Orders & made the necessary Provision for the Militia of Cumberland York & Lancaster amounting to 200 Men to march to Bedford & Westmoreland to relieve the People there while they put in their Spring Crops, such has been the Aversion of the People to the Service & such Delays have been effected as afford a melancholy Proof of the Decline of publick Spirit & even of Attention to the Duties of Humanity. An unhappy Inno-

* See page 363.

vation of the Militia Law in York County sometime ago has degenerated into a Disregard of it in the present Instance & must end in a total Subversion of it in that County if the other Parts of the State do not exert themselves to enforce a like Submission to the Laws there as elsewhere. The Lieutenant of the County finding as we suppose his Duty difficult has desired to resign which we have not complied with at present as his temperizing on former occasions has greatly contributed to bringing Things into their present State. Be assured that nothing has been omitted by us on the Occasion—as finding the Militia of the lower Counties in such a Temper we wrote to Gen^l Washington to entreat him to spare a few Men from Fort Pitt—I also have wrote to the Purpose to Col. Broadhead the commanding Officer there requesting him to give all the Assistance possible. The General has signified to us his great Concern for your Situation but seems to think the Weakness of the Garrison at Fort Pitt will prevent any Detachments from that Post—Col. Broadhead has given us assurance of his Disposition to do every Thing in his Power consistent with his Orders.

In this View of Things your raising the Two Companies is quite satisfactory to us & we shall be glad to hear they are fully compleat. As they appear to have originated from Gen^l McIntosh's Letter we presented it to the Board of War with a View to obtain a Confirmation from them & Commissions in which Case the Charge will fall upon the United States whereas otherwise it will be a particular Charge. We have not yet had the Answer but as soon as we receive it shall endeavour to forward up the Commissions. In the mean Time we have by this Opp^r sent Dollars a part of which if necessary is to be applied to the raising Capt. Irwines Company of Rangers. We would wish you allways to keep in Mind that whenever Congress has adopted a Measure of this kind it is our Interest to pursue that reserving our own Strength to supply Deficiencies. We shall therefore be glad to be assured that the raising the 5 Companies of Rangers agreed to by Congress is considered as the first Service to be performed. When that is completed the next Attention will be to these Companies so as to have them in the best possible Order, but if they are thus raised & provided at publick Expence either of the Continent or State it will follow that should the publick Service require it they must co-operate in any Expedition or offensive Measure for the Security of the Frontiers & not confine themselves merely to the Stationary Defence of a single County. You will therefore be particular in the Expenditure of the Money keeping a proper Account of its Application & applying your Force in the first Place to complete Irwines Company. Should it happen that any Accident should befall him or any of his Officers decline the Service we authorize you to appoint others & shall commission them accordingly.—We do not see the Necessity of a Major for the two Companies, & tho we doubt not the Gentlemans Merit it is so unusual that it is liable to the Construction of making an Office for a Man & not

providing Men for Offices. We do not know what is meant by the Remainder of the Quota of Arms from Council as we have not distributed any Arms to any of the Counties.—We are at a Loss also to conceive how the publick Arms should have fallen into the Enemy's Hands for tho the County may have suffered temporary Incursions the Enemy could never have had such a Possession as to destroy any Quantity of Arms. We should be glad of farther Information & will do every Thing in our Power to give the necessary Relief in this as well as other Articles. But we would wish you & the other Gentleman to bear in Mind that Calamity & Distress is not confined to the Frontiers we have a powerful Force on the Sea Coast occasionally falling upon different Parts of it & committing all Manner of Ravages—There is a great Scarcity of Bread & almost a total Cessation of foreign Trade, the Money has also depreciated to an astonishing Degree which added to the real Scarcity of these Articles we formerly had in Plenty puts it out of our Power to make that Provision for you or ourselves which was formerly to be done. If therefore in any Respect we fall short of your Expectations be assured it is not because we want the Will but the Power to do every thing that is reasonable as nothing could give us greater Pleasure than to see Safety Peace & Plenty once more restored to this Country.

I am Sir
Your Obed. & very
Hble Servt.

WM. MURRAY TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To his Excell^y the President & the Honourable Council of y^e
Commonwealth of Penselvenia.

Your Subscriber most Humbly begs that your Excellency and the Honourable Council will be pleased to enlarge the Quantity of Provisions allowed for Stores from this State for the Sloop Experiment to as great a quantity as they Can without Distressing their People. Your Subscriber has Ten in family Which he proposes to remove to the Continent, and begs Provisions for their subsistance on their passage, & Your Subscriber begs leave with due respect to Subscribe himself

Your Most Ob^t. &
Very H. Serv^t.
WM. MURRAY.*

May 21st, 1779.

Directed,
His Excellency President Read.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII, p. 2.

JOHN KNOX, &c., TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To the Hon'ble Executive Council.

Gentlemen,

The Company* that you gave Permission to Swepe the River Delaware have got up and Landed Five Cannon Nine Pounders and One Anchor between 7 and 8 Hundred wt. As it is attended with great Expense your very Humble Servant would be glad to know weather you want the same, as their has been Severals after the Them.

Sign'd in behalf of the whole
JOHN KNOX.

May 21st, 1779.

CHAS. PETTIT A. Q. M. G., TO PRES. REED 1779.

Philadelphia, 21st May, 1779.

Sir,

I have this morning received a Letter from the Quarter Master General, by Express, desiring me to apply to your Excoellency & the Council for an Order to the state Waggon Masters to furnish Waggon to aid the Quarter Master's department in transporting the Baggage & Stores of the Army under the command of General Sullivan. I am informed General Sullivan applied to your Excoellency on this Subject by Letter some days ago, but that, from his not being acquainted with the Laws of the State, he worded his application in such manner as to be understood to request a general authority to *impress* Teams, but this matter has since been explained to him.†

It is not in my power to ascertain the number of Teams which will be wanted on this occasion; I should therefore suppose it best to give a general Order to the Waggon Masters to furnish so many as shall be required by General Sullivan, or Col. Hooper, the D. Q. M. Gen'l, whichever the Council shall be pleased to confide in: Or, if this should be thought too great a Trust, the number may be limited beyond which they may not go, and in either case no more will be called for than the service shall require.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 1 and 2.

† See pages 388, 427, 439.

The aid of the State seems to be essentially necessary to the movement of this army, and the expediting of the business is of so much importance that I am persuaded I need not urge reasons to induce the Council to give it dispatch, especially as the mistake in making the first application has already lost us some time in it.

It may be that the County of Northampton cannot conveniently furnish the requisite number of Teams, I would therefore request that similar orders be issued to the Waggon Masters of the neighbouring Counties, especially Bucks and Berks.

I have the honor to be

with great respect

Sir your most obedient

hum'l Servant

CHAS. PETTIT, A. Q. M. Gen.*

Directed,

To His Excellency Joa. Reed, Esq^r, president of the state of Pennsylvania.

PRES. REED TO THOS. SCOTT, 1779.

Dear Sir,

Your Favours of the 9th† & of the 26th April are both before me, & would have been sooner answered but for Want of Opp^r, the Person who brought them having disappeared ever since. You may be assured that we sincerely sympathize with you in the distressing State of your Affairs, & shall cheerfully give you all the Aid & Assistance in our Power. It has been very mortifying to us to see so visible a Decline of the publick Spirit & Animation which distinguished the State formerly. And tho' some may ascribe it to a Dislike of the Government & other local Circumstances, I think it may very naturally be accounted for from those Principles which operate on human Nature in other Cases; the Mind long employed on one Subject grows weary, & when Calamity & Distress is added for any considerable Time, it naturally seeks for Ease & Relief. Our true Wisdom in such Cases is not to strain Things too far, but take what we can get, least the Bow too long bent instead of retaining its Elasticity should break. In order to give the Frontiers some Relief, & at the same Time avoid pressing too hard upon the interior Counties, we ordered out 250 Militia last April to march immediately to Bedford & Westmoreland, but even this, either from real Inability, which can hardly be supposed, or from real Aversion to

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 2.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 773.

the Service, has been only in part complied with. It is mortifying in two Respects, first, As it shews a Want of Attention to our suffering Friends on the Frontiers, & secondly, as it discovers a Weakness in the Government. It would have a very happy Effect if the Gentlemen of the back Counties, as Times & Circumstances admit, would signify to them their Sense of being thus left, when Authority in its proper Course had been used. Conviction of Error arising from Reason & Judgment is much more forcible among a free & sensible People than any strained or violent Exertions of Power, even tho' they should effect a particular Purpose. We have wrote to M^r Lochry, approving of the Measure of raising the two Companies referred to also in your Letter, but as Genl. McIntosh's Letter lays a very reasonable Foundation to put the Expense on Congress, we have been endeavouring to procure some Confirmation, or at least such a Reference to his Powers as may enable us to transfer the Expence, which will be heavy, from this State individually. This not being yet done, we would wish the first Exertions may be made to fill Capt. Irwin's Company, which is fixed on Continental Establishment, & then to organize the others so as to make them most effectual. But we would wish to impress you & Col. Lochry fully with the Idea that the Officers & Men should understand themselves bound to co-operate in any Measure for the Defence & Security of the Frontiers generally, & not as we fear is too much the Case suppose themselves confined to a particular County; this is not only necessary for the Purpose of getting them paid in Continental Service, but is reasonable whether they are provided by the State or the Continent, for tho' upon this Occasion the Necessity of the Case has induced us to adopt the Measure, yet you will easily see that Consequences may flow from this Mode of raising Troops & incurring publick Expence, that common Prudence would direct us to make it as safe & palatable as possible. With Respect to the third Company we would wish to see Capt. Irwin's first completed, as we feel anxious to have those Companies fairly on foot. Upon the whole, you may rely upon every Exertion in our Power, & when we fail you must impute it to a Want of Power, not of Inclination.

The Gentlemen of the Council present, viz., the Vice Presid., Mr. Mackey, Col. Smith, & Col. Orndt, present you their Respects, & we hope as soon as your private Affairs will permit you will take your Place among us.

I am, with much Regard & Esteem,

Sir, Your most Obed.

& very Hbble Serv.,

JOS. REED, President.

Philad., May 22d, 1779.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, May 22, 1779.

Resolved,

That all continental officers who are or may be exchanged and not continued in the service be, after such exchange, considered as supernumerary officers, and entitled to the pay provided by a Resolution of Congress of the twenty-fourth of November last.

November 24, 1778.

Whereas from the alteration of the establishment and other causes, many valuable officers have and may be omitted in the new arrangement, as being supernumerary, who from their conduct and services are entitled to the honourable notice of Congress and to a suitable provision until they can return to civil life with advantage :

Resolved therefore, That Congress gratefully acknowledge the faithful services of such officers, and that all supernumerary officers be entitled to one year's pay of their commissions respectively, to be computed from the time such officers had leave of absence from the commander in chief on this account ; and Congress do earnestly recommend to the several states to which such officers belong to make such further provision for them as their respective circumstances and merits entitle them to.

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.*

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, 22d May, 1779.

Resolved,

That the Resolutions of Congress passed on the 8th day of March last, relative to the Controul of Congress by Appeal in the last resort over all jurisdictions for deciding the Legality of Captures on the high Seas, be immediately transmitted to the several States, & that they be respectively requested to take effectual measures for conforming therewith.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.†

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 8, 6—handbill.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 8, 6.

JNO. CARSON TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Carlisle, May 24th, 1779.

Sir,

Agreeable to an order from the Executive Council, I have drawn on Mr. Sarjaint, C. M. Stores, at the Publick works, for two Hundred & fifty Rifles, to have them repaired under my direction. I have deposited a number of them in y^e hands of Gunsmiths for that purpose; one hundred I took to Lancaster. There will be, I expect, a sufficient number of the Guns repaired in two weeks to arm all the Rangers that will be got—from what I can learn there is about sixty of them Enlisted; they will be with Me in a few days for arms. The Arms I drew from Mr. Sarjaint were in very bad order, most of them wants Locks, & a great many Stocks & Locks. I purchased one hundred locks in Lancaster & was obliged to pay Twenty dollars each for them; the Expence attending the repairing the guns will be very great.

I have as yet been able to pay the demands of the workmen, but my Cash is almost run short.

I would be glad you would send Me, by the first safe Conveyance, Eight Thousand dollars; if that proves insufficient, I shall draw on you for more; there was not enough Rifles at the works out of Order to compleat my demand, but have engag'd repair'd ones if wanted.

I am, with due respect,

Your Excellency's obed^t &

Very h^ble Serv^t,

JNO. CARSON.*

PRESIDENT REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

In Council,

May 24th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

The Inhabitants of the upper Part of Lancaster & Cumberland being resolved to defend themselves against the Inroads of the Enemy, have requested a Supply of Ammunition, as we can entirely depend upon the Persons to whose Care we commit it. We have furnished them Powder but have not Lead equivalent, we should therefore be much obliged to your Board to accommodate us with 1500^{lbs} of Lead, which we will return as soon as in our Power.

We are, Gentlemen, respectfully,

Your obed^t H^bbble Serv^t.

The Hon., the Board of War.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 8.

SAMUEL HUNTER TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Fort Augusta, 26th May, 1779.

Sir,

Yours of the 5th* Inst. I Received, and likewise the ten Thousand Dollars sent for the Recruiting Service. I am sorry to inform you that we come but poor speed in Raising this Company of Rangers for nine Months, and all Owing to a number of People that has Got appointments to Recrute for the Boat Service, and the Generality of them inhabitants of this County, so that the Officer I appointed stands no chance, as them that Engages in the Boat Service is to Receive one Hundred & twenty Dollars @ Month & a Ration & a half @ Day for five Months.

I appointed Captain Thomas Kemplen to Command this Company of nine months men, which I hope you will Commission and date it the seventh inst. I had appointed two others for Lieutenants which I thought wou'd serve, but none of them would Except of their appointments, and all Owing to the Reasons above mentioned. Capt Kemplen has enlisted fourteen men, and got them attested; there has been no Mischief done in this County since the 17th Inst, that there was a family Consisting of four persons, kill'd and scalped, about twenty seven Miles above this, on the North Branch, Opisit to Fort Jenkins; suppose there is Indians seen every day one place or other on our Frontiers; but what few inhabitants has Remained above this is assembled in small Bodys and keeps together for their owen safety, as there is very little farming going on in this part of the Country; the inhabitants of this County is very much encouraged seeing the preparations makeing for this Expedition against the Savages. Yesterday there was twelve large Boats loaded with Provisions left this for Wyoming, Escorted by a sufficient number of Continental Soldiers.

I am, Sr, with due Esteem,

Your most Obedient Humb* Serv^t,

SAML. HUNTER, Lieu^t N. C.

To his Exceeleny, Joseph Reed, Esq^r.

* See page 275.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, 26th May, 1779.

His Excellency, the President of the State, having suggested that some Gentlemen had signified a doubt as to the propriety of presenting the said petition,

Resolved unanimously,

That Congress will at all times cheerfully receive the sentiments of their constituents upon every important matter which may become the Subject of their Deliberation.

Extract from the Minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

GEN. JOHN SULLIVAN TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Easton, May 26, 1779.

Sir,

I am honored with your obliging favor of the 21st Instant,† Inclosing three Blank warrants for Teams, Waggon &c., I am Exceedingly Sorry that I made use of the term *Impressing* in my Letter of the 11th† and beg leave to assure you that it proceeded only from my Ignorance of the mode your Government had adopted for Supply. I am fully of opinion that the mode pointed out by your Executive Council will in the General best promote the publick Service & had I Even a Doubt upon my mind your Reasoning upon the Subject must have removed it. I beg Sir that you & the Executive Council will please to accept my Sincere thanks for the Trust reposed in me & that you will rest assured that no abuse of the power shall take place. As I probably may stand in need of much assistance from the Executive Council of your State I shall endeavor to make proper applications in full Confidence of a Compliance with every reasonable request & should I at any time Through Ignorance of the measures you have adopted request assistance in a way which your Laws will not warrant you will please to excuse it & grant the aid in Such way as your Laws may point out & your wisdom may Direct. I shall ever stand ready to account with your Council for the use of every power entrusted to me by them & will in every instance endeavor to Comply with what appears to be their wish & shall be Thankful for every advice which the

* See page 422.

† See page 427.

‡ See page 388.

Councill or any of its members will please to Communicate. I have the Honor to be most*

Directed,

On Publick Service.

His Excellency Joseph Read Esq^r president of the Councill of Pennsylvania Philadelphia.

COL. PROCTOR TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Easton, May 27th, 1779,

Sir,

I am press'd exceedingly by the Officers of my Regiment to make their wants known to your Excellency such are their necessities that many of them have no other Cloathing to appear on Duty &c., but such plain Cloaths as they had laid aside when they Joined the Service and what adds to their misfortune that the Jersey Officers with whome the necessarily do duty with, are well provided with every necessary of Cloathing, and given by their State. I do not by mentioning these matters in the least degree think you would withhold the Cloathing granted for the gentlemen of my Regiment but forward the same by every suitable means having but Ocular demonstration of Cloaths being in the State Store cut out for Officers and our wants as Craving as others and Knowing of other Officers being supplied, after our application, gave room for some Jealousies I hope your Excellency will be pleas'd to Consider the promises and so far as 'tis Just in proportion with other Troops of the State to order Cloathing to be Issued for the Corps of Artillery I wish your Excellency every Fellicity and remain

Honoured Sir

Your Ob^t. Servant

THO^s. PROCTER

Col. P. Artillery.†

P. S. Lieutenant Webster waits on your Excellency and should be proud of your Answer.

Directed,

His Excellency Jos. Reed Esq^r Philadelphia.

* Autograph, &c., cut off. See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 9.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 9.

Gov. P. HENRY OF VIRGINIA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

W^hburgh May 27th, 1779.

Sir,

The Resolution of the general assembly which I have the Honor to transmit herewith, fully expresses their sense on the Subject of negotiating the boundary Line between your State & this.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant,

P. HENRY.*

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Excellency Joseph Read, President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

—

In the House of Delegates May the 20th, 1779.

Resolved that the Governor be desired to inform the Commissioners appointed on the part of Pennsylvania to adjust the Boundary between that and this State, that this Assembly will proceed to nominate Commissioners for the same Purpose; to signify that the Place appointed by them is agreeable; but to desire that such meeting may be postponed until the Assembly shall have risen, of which Notice shall be given them.

Teste.

E. RANDOLPH C. H. D.

May 21st, 1779.

Agreed to by the Senate.

J. BECKLEY. C. S.

A Copy. John Beckley C. S.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 16.

McCLENACHAN & IRWIN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philada, 27th May, 1779.

Sir,

We hereby take the liberty of acquainting your Excellency that notwithstanding we have been constantly employed in endeavouring to collect the subscriptions for fitting out the State Ship we have not been able to collect above £20,000.

We have advanced on accot of the Ship £35,000 and imagine her Bills unpaid amount to £25,000, therefore request your Excellency will give us an order on the Treasurer for £40,000 which we will account with you for in the course of ten days, when we expect to have the whole of the Ships acco^{ts} settled.

We are Sir,

Your Excellency's

most obdt Serv^{ts},

McCLENACHAN & IRWIN.*

Directed,

His Excellency Jos. Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

War Office, May 28, 1779.

Sir,

By an Act of Congress of the 31st July, 1777, a Plan was recommended to the respective States for recruiting the Army by dividing each State into Districts & appointing a Person in each District to recruit Men & this Person was also to receive Deserters & he was to be allowed by the Government of the State five Dollars for every such Deserter. By Resolve of Oct. 17, 77, the Reward was raised to ten Dollars & $\frac{1}{3}$ rd "for every Mile between the Place in which the Deserter may be taken & to which he may be conveyed." The Premium & Mileage to be Stop'd out of the Deserter's Pay. This is the last Resolve on the subject. In the last Section General Washington is directed to send Officers to receive the Recruits—these Officers were to receive from the Supreme Executive Powers Money to pay for the Deserters delivered them by the Persons appointed in the Districts & to account with the Executive Authorities of the re-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 17.

spective States for the Expenditures. The Governments were to draw upon Congress for the Monies furnished on this acc^t. The Board are therefore of opinion that under the Spirit of this Resolve the Council may if they think proper take temporary Measures in the Way they think most expedient for the Payment of Premiums to Persons taking up Deserters & the United States will be bound by that Resolve to pay the Premium & Mileage finally to the State. We think at the present Value of Money the Sum agreed to be paid by Congress is much too low & therefore we wish to recommend to them an Augmentation & endeavour to trace out some better Plan for the Payment. Meantime if Council should offer a larger Premium & Congress should hereafter agree that the Sum to be paid by the United States should be encreased we conceive that it will be equitable that the State should be allowed the encreased Sum if they shall even under their own Act pay to the Amount thereof.

On examining the Resolve of the 17 Oct^r, 77, we perceive a Recommendation to the States to make Provision for the Punishment of Persons Harboursing Deserters or buying Arms &c., from the Soldiers—We know not whether Pennsylvania has passed a Law on this Subject. We are too frequently informed of the Loss of the Supplies by the Villainy of the Soldiers & we beg Council will be pleased, if no Provision is already made, to lay the Matter before the Assembly at their next Meeting that they may be pleased to fall upon a Mode of punishing Delinquents in this particular, & thereby put a Stop to the Enormity.

We are Sir,

very respectfully

your very obed. Servants,

RICHARD PETERS,

By Order.

Directed,

On public Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the Sup. Ex. Council of Pennsylvania.

War Office).

CALEB DAVIS TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Chester County, 28th May, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I received a letter from the Honourable George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council of this Common Wealth requesting me to Transmit an Account To you of the Justices in this County &c., The following therefore is a list of the names of all the persons mentioned In the several Commissions of the peace Issued since the Revolution with such distinction as his Honour requested to be made, Viz:

- First Isaac Davis, Sworn into Office & since Deceased.
- 2^d Evan Evans, Sworn
- 3^d James Moore, Ditto.
- 4th Benjamin Bartholomew, Ditto.
- 5 John Mackey, a Member of Council.
- 6 William Gibbons, not Qualified & out of County.
- 7 Joshua Evans, refused to Qualify.
- 8 Isaac Pearson, Ditto.
- 9 Dan Griffith, Sworn.
- 10 Patterson Bell, Ditto.
- 11 John Hannum, Affirmed.
- 12 Robert Smith, Ditto.
- 13 Phillip Scott, Sworn.
- 14 Thomas Taylor, Affirmed.
- 15 Thomas Cheyney, Ditto.
- 16 Thomas Levia, Ditto.
- 17 Thomas Boyd, Sworn into Office & since Deceased.
- 18 Robert Ralston, refused to Qualify.
- 19 John Hart, never Qualified & out of County.
- 20 Richard Reyley, refused to Qualify.
- 21 William Evans, Sworn.
- 22 William Clingan, Ditto.

Elections have been held in every District but there is no Justices in the three following Districts, To wit, first Chester Upper and Lower Chichesters Aston Bethel & Middletown, 2^d Darby Radnor & Haverford, 3^d Newtown, East Town Willistown & Goshen.

I am Dear Sir,

your most ob^t Serv^t

CALEB DAVIS.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esq., Secret'y of Council, Philadelphia.

PETITION WM. HOLLIDAY &c., TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To the Honorable President and Council.

The Indians being now in the County the frontier Inhabitants being Generally fled, leaves the few that Remains in such a distress'd Condition that Pen can hardly Describe, nor your Honors can only have a faint Idea of, nor can it be Conceiv'd properly by any but such as are the subjects thereof, But while we suffer in the part of the County that is most frontier, the Inhabitants of the Interior part of this County live at ease and safety.

And we humbly conceive that by some immediate Instruction from Council, to call them that are less Exposed to our Relief we shall be able under God to Repulse our Enemies and put it in the power of the distressed Inhabitants to reap the fruits of their Industry. Therefore we humbly pray you would grant us such Relief in the premises as you in your wisdom see Meet. And your Petitioners shall pray &c.

JAMES MARTIN, S. L^a.

N. B. There is a Quantity of Lead at the Mines in this County, Council may procure for the use of said County which will save Carriage & supply our wants with that Article which we cannot exist without at this Place, & our Flints is altogether Expended therefore we beg Council would furnish us with those necessaries as they in their Wisdom sees Cause.

WILLIAM HOLLIDAY, P. M.
THOMAS COULTER, Sheriff,
RICHARD J. DELAPT, Capt.,
SAM DAVIDSON,

P. S. Please to suply us with powder to answer Lead.
May 29th, 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

For Favor of }
Col. Smith. }

PRES. REED TO COLONEL MARTIN, 1779,

In Council.

Philad^a, May 29^a, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour by Col. Smith is duly received, & we sincerely sympathize with you in the distressing State of your Affairs. We should be very unhappy if we could charge ourselves with omitting any Thing in our Power for your Relief. But as early as February last the President went to Camp to concoct Measures with Gen. Washington for your Defence, & on the 30th March Orders were issued to the Counties of York, Cumberland, & Lancaster, to detach 250 Militia for the Support of Bedford & Westmorland. It was with great Concern we found their Orders so seasonably issued, and not as seasonably complied with. The first Difficulty occurred in York County, where it gradually increased, & ended at last in Neglect of the Order. Lancaster was likely to have complied fully, but finding York County had shrunk back, followed the Example. We greatly regret their Failures of publick Duty, for which the Injury to the Corps, & the great Distress for laboring Hands, & Fear of Famine, are assigned as Reasons, how just & sufficient we do not say, but are sorry to find you are likely to suffer so much by it. We have communicated the Orders & the Answers we have received to Col. Smith, who will be able to give you a more full Account. We have now done every Thing you have requested of us; inclosed is an Order from Gen. Roberdeau for 500lb Lead; 1000 Flint^s will go up to Carlisle by a Waggon, Mr. Smith has pointed out to us, & inclosed you have an Authority to call out such a Number of Militia as may be necessary for Defence, on an Emergency. We wish you to believe that we are fully determined to give you all the Relief & Assistance possible, & tho' distant from us, we shall pay an unremitting Attention to any Thing which concerns the Frontiers.

I am Sir,

with due Regard,

your obed. h^ble ser

P. S. Mr. Smith carries up the Commissions for your Officers of Militia.

Directed,

To Col. Martin, Sub Lt of the County of Bedford.*

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 9.

PRES. REED TO CAPTAIN CAMPBELL, 1779.

In Council.

Philad., May 29th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Letter of 26 April, but not dated from any Place, came safely to Hand. Your Request inclosed of retaining your Rank, has been transmitted to the Board of War, & tho' we have not received their Answer, yet the like Indulgence having been granted to other Officers, will no Doubt be extended to you; as soon as we receive a formal Answer will communicate it, in the mean Time we wish you to proceed in the Business with all possible Dispatch, & fill up your Company. We have complied with your Requests in forwarding Money, having sent herewith, 10,000 Dollars, which will be delivered you by Major Boggs. Mr. Carver, of Carlisle, will supply the Men with Arms, & as they are Continental Troops, the Comm^r of Military Stores will furnish the Accoutrements, &c. Other Articles will, we expect, be furnished by the Commissary, under Gen. Sullivan, at Sunbury, when the Companies are to march with all Expedition, as soon as completed. Be assured we shall endeavour to have every Thing done in our Power to comply with the Engagements of Congress as speedily as possible.

I am Sir,

Your obed. h^ble.

Philad., May 29, 1779.

Directed,

To Capt. Thomas Campbell.

PRES'T REED TO GEN. WASHINGTON, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, May 29th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Excellen^y Favour of the Inst., and of the 22** (Circular) have both been duly received, & in Answer to the former we are happy to find our Explanations have been so satisfactory & agreeable. The distressing Complaints from the Frontiers will we trust greatly apologize to your Excell^y for the Anxiety shown in our Letters. But as we hope these Calamities will soon cease, & of Course we

* Not found.

shall not be under any Necessity of troubling you with farther Applications.

Just as your Excell^r Favour of the 22^d Inst. arrived, we had sent to the Press a Proclamation in very cogent Terms for apprehending Deserters—one of which we inclose, & hope the Measure will have a good Effect. If we could be furnished with recruiting Money we should also do something in that Way—tho we should be glad to be informed (so far as might be proper) of the Deficiencies of our several Regiments, that we may be enabled to judge of the Extent of our Applications & Exertions, for we beg Leave to assure your Excell^r that we feel the Justice, Propriety & Wisdom of the Observations you have made, & shall most heartily endeavour to strengthen your Hands & support your Measures to bring our Affairs to a happy & speedy Issue.

We have long wished to see the Clothier Department so managed as to give more general Satisfaction. Whether the present System will do so we cannot say; but it shall have our furtherance & Assistance; as Mr. Moore is continued at the Head of it we sent for him this Morning & he informs us that the Resolve of the 23 March is only a Part of the System, & that an Appointment of the State Clothier who is to reside at Camp will at this time be unreasonable.

We have the Pleasure of informing your Excell^r that a Spirit of Reformation, Attention to Finance & Restoration of lost Credit seems likely to prevail, & we hope the Lethargy which you justly observe has seized us, will soon give Place to animated Exertions. For we cannot but believe there remains a Portion of that Spirit which distinguished America at an early Day sufficient to rekindle a due Attention to our neglected Duty & Interests. We have & shall endeavour to promote such a Spirit, & the Reflection that by so doing we shall most effectually advance your Views & co-operate with the Army is not one of the least encouraging.

We have directed Col. Matlack, Secretary of the Board, to attend with the 4 necessary Papers on Gen. Arnold's Tryal, & beg Leave to introduce him to your Excell^r Regard & Notice.

I am, Sir,

your most obed. &

very Hble. Serv.

J. WILKINSON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Fredericksburgh, May 30th, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I beg leave to trespass a Moment on your Excellency's Time, & hope the occasion will justify the intrusion. I am positively informed that Genl. Arnold, on his arrival in Philadelphia, borrowed a sum of Money of the Commissaries, Chandler & White, which was afterwards discounted on a Contract for Rum, or some other Article, with Mr. Constable, and I therefore think it may be necessary to examine those Gentlemen on the Generals Tryal, touching this Circumstance. I do not wish to convey the most oblique insinuation against Mr. Chandler or Mr. White, as I think them very worthy Men, nor would I wish this channel of communication to be promulgated until I am present to explain & vindicate it. I hope your Excellency will excuse a Liberty prompted by a Love of Justice.

I am with the highest respect,

your ready Servant,

J. WILKINSON.

REV. W. ROGERS TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Phil^a, May 31, 1779.

May it please the Council.

As I am obliged to set out on the Morrow to join my Brigade on the Indian Expedition, I wish that your hon^{ble} Board would be so kind as to Issue an Order this Day in my Favor, allowing M^r Rogers in Time of my absence to Draw of M^r Crispin One half of the Rations of Tea, Sugar, Coffee &c., To which by the Resolve of Assembly of March 13th, myself with other Officers in the Penna^a Line are Entitled. As I shall not make use of all myself, as the Tour on which I am going is Rather Dangerous & the Expences attending a Family in this City very great, I hope that your hon^{ble} Board will be so kind as to grant my Request. The Doing of which will lay me under the greatest Obligations.*

I have the Honor to be, Gentlemen,

your most Obed^t and very humble Serv^t,

W. ROGERS.

*Directed,*The Hon^{ble}, The Supreme Executive Council.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 21.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

In Council,
Philadelphia, May 31st, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Some Time in September last, or perhaps a little sooner, upon Information respecting one Mr. Seagrove, your Hon. Board was directed to write to Mons. Girard or the Count D'Estaing. It is deemed necessary on the Trial of Gen. Arnold to shew in what Light that Person was considered. You will therefore please to direct your Secretary to give a certified Copy of the Proceedings of your Board in that Matter, so that they may be forwarded to morrow Morn^g.

We are informed of much Disturbance at Reading, between the British Prisoners, & the Inhabitants, & fear from the Temper of the People there some Insult may be offered them. If the Board have not Places in Contemplation more proper, we would mention to them the Towns of Cohansy & Salem, in West Jersey, as very proper Places for Prisoners, being out of the ordinary Line of Communication with the Enemy.

I am, Gentlemen, with great
Respect, your most Obd.

GENL. SULLIVAN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Head Quarters, Easton, May 31, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I am Informed by Mr. Blaine (Commissary) That the Stores on Susquehannah have no Guards to secure them; I always supposed that the ranging Companies from your State would pass by that rout & guard the stores to Wyoming. I must Intreat of your Excellency to send them on to Easterton if they are Ready; if the whole are not prepared to march I wish Such as can possibly march may be Sent on. Should the whole fail to be ready at this time I must request the favor of your Executive Council to order out a number of militia from the neighbourhood of Sunbury for the purpose, as my Sending a part of the Troops from this Quarter must be attended with the most Injurious Delay as well as Fatigue to the Troops. I yesterday returned from the Great Swamps; I find the Road in Such forwardness that I shall march the army for Wyoming this week. I have already Sent on five hundred men to Strengthen that Garrison, as I find Col^o Butler is on his march Downward with

nine hundred men. As I have the highest Confidence in your Excellency & the Council of your State affording me Every possible assistance, I have no Doubt of you adopting Such measures as will best answer the purpose in view.

I have the Honor to be
with the most Lively Sentiments of Esteem,
your Excellencys most obedient Servant,
JN^o SULLIVAN.

Directed,

(On publick Service.)

His Excellency Joseph Read, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Mr. Genl. Sullivan.

GEORGE ROSS TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Gent,

I am under the necessity of informing you that the business in the Court of Admiralty is much delayed on account of the want of a Register.* I have for some time been obliged to transact the whole business. Let me entreat Council to take the matter under Consideration, make the appointment as soon as possible.

I am with respect

Your very Hble. Serv^t,

GEO. ROSS.

June 1st, 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, Pres^t, and the Hon^{ble} the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylv^a.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 14.

MRS. ALLEN TO SECT'Y MATLACK, 1779.

Mrs. Allen's Compliments to Mr. Matlack : begs leave once more to remind him of his kind promise to her, in speaking to Counsel with regard to her application to him for the payment of the money for the Lead taken from her House for the use of the Publick. As she is obliged at present to pay the Taxes for last year it will be particularly serviceable if he can let her know the proper steps that she is to take for the immediate payment of it.

June the 1, 1779.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack Esq', present.

GENL. ST. CLAIR TO PRES'T REED, 1779.

Spring Field, June 1st, 1779.

Sir,

Your Excellency's letter accompanying the accounts of the Money issued for the Recruiting Service came to Hand on the Evening of the 28th ulto., and as we marched the next Morning I have not had it in my Power to do any thing respecting them ; as soon, however, as we have any leisure they shall be settled. I spoke to his Excellency about the Independent Companies. He does not think it necessary to give any Directions about them. They are to remain with Spencer untill the Troops join upon the Susquehanah, which may have occasioned the misunderstanding.

Enclosed is a List of Officers absolutely necessary for the Regiment which I rec^d yesterday from head Quarters. The Colonells would, no doubt, wish to recommend, and I shall apply to them when we Halt to Night ; in the mean Time I thought it best to acquaint you of it, as I doubt Gent^l for Ensigns are not easily got, and several of the Colonells are^r absent—some I believe in Philadelphia, whom of Course you will see.

This will be delivered by Colonell Hubley, who is now on his way to take the Eleventh Regiment—the Dispute betwixt him and Colonell Connor having been settled in his favour, whereof he has a Certificate from me, which I hope will be sufficient to procure the Commission.

The Current of Intelligence indicates a design in the Enemy upon the Highlands. We are marching to watch their Motions, and I am very happy to inform You that We are in high Health and Spirits,

and not a little pleased to have been the first Part of the army ordered to take the Field.

Please to present my best Respects to Mrs. and Miss Reed, and believe me to be with Esteem and Respect,

Sir, your most obedient Servant,

A^c S^cCLAIR.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

MICHAEL FARMER TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To the Honorable the Supreme Executive Council.

The Petition of Michael Farmer of the City of Philadelphia, Tobaccoist.

humbly Sheweth,

That your Petitioner has had a long time on hand a great quantity of manufactured Tobacco and Snuff, for which in the present time he has no sale to the great Injury & detriment of himself and poor Wife & Children having no other means of Support than the little Profits of his Trade.

Your petitioner is desirous to go with the same to New England or some parts of these United States in order to vend his said Tobacco & Snuff and thereby procure Bread for his family and to that end humbly prayeth to grant him your passport And your Petitioner as in duty &c.

MICHAEL FARMER.*

Philad., June 1st, 1779.

Indorsed,

Petition, Michael Farmer.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 11.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

Gentlemen,

I send you herewith some Papers received from Reading—from these & other Accounts the Consequences of keeping the Prisoners longer there will be very prejudicial to the Inhabitants & eventually injurious to the States. We therefore request you would take the necessary Steps to remove them—and if out of the State the more agreeable.

I am Gent.,

Your Obed. Hbbl. Serv^{ts}*

In Council, June 1, 1779.

Directed,

To the Hon., The Board of War.

PRES. REED TO CAPT. JAMES MONTGOMERY, 1779:

In Council,

Philad^a, June 2d, 1779.

Sir,

I wrote you this Morning to which must now refer. This will be delivered you by Capt. Tucker Commander of the Boston Frigate under whom you are directed to act for three Weeks any former Orders notwithstanding. At the Expiration of the three Weeks you are either to return within the Capes or keep the Sea as you think best, & as your Stores & Necessaries will permit on no Account but in case of the most absolute Necessity coming into Port. We shall forward to Lewis Town necessary Stores. It gives us great Pleasure to hear the Ship sails so well—and as it will greatly redound to your Honour & Advantage as well as of the State to make a Stroke on the Privateers of New York we doubt not you & all on board will exert yourselves fully & effectually to this Purpose.

Wishing you all imaginable Success

I remain Sir your Obed. H^bbl. Serv^t

Directed,

To Capt. James Montgomery.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 18.

PRES. REED TO COL. SAMUEL HUNTER, 1779.

In Council,

P^a June 2d, 1779.

Sir,

Your favour of 26th *May by M^r Martin was duly rec^d. The shortness of the time prevented our sending M^r Kemplins Commission but will do it as soon as possible in the mean time must request you to nominate suitable persons for Lieutenants and we can send the Commissions altogether.

I was always apprehensive that boat service would injure these companies and wish if it could have been so ordered that the whole had been put under the same general direction. However as it is for one great and Common service we hope the good people of the county will exert themselves to forward the measures of which they are to reap the immediate benefit. We trust a very little time will remove all apprehensions. Inclosed I send you a letter from General Sullivan. To order the ranging Companies on that service is impracticable to order the Militia of Lancaster is unnecessary as there can be no danger from an enemy from Middleton to Sunbury. We therefor request that as Lieutenant of the County you will give him all possible aid in the transportation of his stores and let him know that you have rec^d such instructions from us. If the situation of things does not admit your giving it, we think you had better inform him so candidly and whatever orders he gives as to numbers of Guards or whatever you grant keep a regular account of that they may be brought as proper vouchers to support our charge against the Continent.

You may always rely upon our utmost attention to every thing which concerns your safety and hope you will diffuse a spirit of Confidence thro the inhabitants of the county of which they will soon see the beneficent consequences.

Our affairs in this quarter seem to wear a most favourable aspect and we flatter ourselves that Providence will so far favour us in a short time as to restore us the blessings of peace & safety.

I send you enclosed a couple of late News papers which contain all the publick news we have, and am sir,

your ob^t and very humble S^tJ. R. P^a.*Directed,*To Colonel Sam^l Hunter.

* See page 438.

COUNCIL TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

8d June, 1779.

Gent.,

By an inclosure within your favour of yesterday, I observe that Mr. John Brooks* of York Town, stiles himself Town Major. The novelty of this Character took the attention of Council, & led to some inquiry. Mr. Hahn of that place, tells us that the appointment was made during the residence of Congress, & as he thinks your board there, on the occasion of quartering some soldiers.

It was thought not amiss to lay this information before you, lest an office, now perhaps become unnecessary, should be continued under the apprehension that Mr. Brooks was commissioned by the State of Pennsylvania.

I am, &c.

Directed,

To the Honourable the Board of War.

PRES. REED TO COL. WM. HENRY, &c., 1779.

Sir,

An Officer from the Fort just now delivered me the inclosed Letter.† I remember last Week, Dr. Hutchinson, Mr. Marshall, & Capt. Peale, spoke to me about giving Directions to the Officer at the Fort, to examine the Shallops & small Craft, but on conversing with them they appeared satisfied with the Reasons given ag^t stopping them. Never hearing any Thing more about it, I yesterday Morning repeated former Orders given that all Sea Vessels outward bound should pass freely, & all Shallops & small Crafts to pass freely both up & down. You will easily perceive, Sir, that these Directions clashing with those ment^d in the Letter, & which I did not know till this morning, will embarras the officer. I trust the good Sense & Virtue of the Committee will show them [the] ill Consequences arising therefrom. Every Gentleman of the Council is of the same Opinion with me, that as the River upwards is quite open & also across, that the stopping Shallops & Boats, with a View of preventing Goods going out of Town, will be inadequate to the End. Besides which, the Ammunition fired away from the Fort to stop these small Vessels, will be a great Expence which we cannot replace. We have had formal Remonstrances from the Continental Officers on the last Subject already. But the great Difficulty still remains, which we

* See page 459.

† Not found.

think will be sorely felt; I mean that the People of the Country; finding it difficult to take out of Town what they want, will bring nothing in. I am clearly of Opinion that if any Umbrage is given to the Country, we shall soon find ourselves very much distressed. I most earnestly wish that, if the Committee think the Service of any Persons, acting under the Authority of Government, will be of use, they would take it thro' the Medium of this Board, otherwise Confusion & Mistakes will unavoidably ensue. And as we have one common Object in View, viz: the publick Good, no Gentleman can doubt our concurring in any Measure to promote it.

Directed,

To Colonel William Henry, Chairman of the Committee, & for regulated prices.

PRES. REED TO COL. JEHU EYRE, 1779.

Sir,

There are two very pretty Pieces of Cannon (brass) come down from Lancaster, which belong to the State. They are not mounted, but the Carriages are with them. If your Regtⁱ is not fully supplied, it may be proper for some of the Gentlemen to take them in Hand. They are now in the State House Yard.

I am Sir,

your obed. h^ble ser.,

JOS. REED.

June 3, 1779.

Directed,

To Col. Eyre, Commander of the Militia Artillery, Pennsylv^a.

PRES. REED TO MAJ. GEN. SULLIVAN, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favours of the 26th & 31st* Ult. came safely to Hand, and you may rely fully upon our utmost Exertions to give you all possible Assistance in your present Service. We are very sensible of the Interest we have in it, both generally & specially, & shall use our utmost Interest with all Persons under our Authority to advance & forward such Measures as you may direct. We think it a very great Misfortune that the Q^r Master's Department as generally arranged thro' this State has not the Confidence of the People, but we shall endeavour to obviate this Difficulty by all necessary & immediate Exertions on our Part. Gen^l Washington has recommended to us very strongly the employing of Gen^l Potter, as a Gentleman whose Experience & Knowledge of the Frontiers may make his Services very beneficial on this Occasion, an Idea with which we perfectly

* See pages 439, 450.

coincide, but we find ourselves embarrassed on that Subject, as we do not see how a Command can be given him equal to his Rank of a Brig. Genl under the State. We have hinted our Wishes to him & hope they will induce him to offer you his Services, if not for a Command as a Volunteer. Should he do so we beg Leave to recommend him to your particular Notice & Regard, as a Person in whose Information & Advice you may repose great Confidence.

The Board of War wrote to us some Time ago upon the Subject of providing an Escort for the Stores from Middleton, but the Knowledge of several Gentlemen well acquainted with the State of Things there, enabled us to satisfy them that an Escort to Sunbury was quite unnecessary as to an Enemy. You may rely upon it that the only Danger to the Stores would be from the Boatmen, which an Escort of Militia would be more likely to increase, but as these Boatmen are regularly inlisted & officer'd, we are of Opinion they will proceed with perfect Safety under the Inspection of two or three discreet Officers, & the Militia cannot be drawn out in any Season for the Service. We have wrote to the Lieut of Northumberland to comply with any Requisitions you may make him for Militia for Escort from Sunbury to Wyoming. It would greatly retard the ranging Companies, both in recruiting & equipping, to order them on this Service; in many Instances they must return a great Distance back, & as they are not so forward as we could wish, we are unwilling to add to their Obstructions. The very high Wages of 120 Dolls. $\frac{1}{2}$ Month & other Encouragement given the Boatmen so much beyond That for Soldiers will prove a heavy Clog to the recruiting. It is thought by many judicious People that Men might have been procured at a less Expence. If the men are drawn off in one Way, there will be Deficiencies in another, & tho' this Service is absolutely necessary we cannot help wishing the Mode of providing for it had been gone into with more Deliberation. From the best Judgment we are able to form of the Progress of the ranging Companies, about half are raised. We have given them directions to proceed to Sunbury as fast as possible after they are compleated or nearly so, & hope they will prove essentially useful to you; there have been some Companies raised in Westmoreland & Northumberland for Special Defence; if they are found necessary we shall give them Orders to Join, but we are unwilling to take any Measure which may lessen the Security of the Inhabitants or increase your Number of Months, as we fear a Scarcity of Provisions & Necessaries will be one of the most painful Enemies you will have to combat.

I am, Sir, with very respectful Regard,

Your most Obed.

Hbbl. Serv.,

JOS. REED, President.

The Hon, Major Gen. Sullivan.

June 3, 1779.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

War Office, June 4, 1779.

Sir,

In order to relieve the militia from guard duty at Lebanon, we ordered the military stores to be removed from thence to Lancaster. The D. Q. M. G. wrote us the inclosed letters, by which it appears he cannot get teams for the purpose. We submit them to your consideration, and request to be favoured with your determination in the case, that we may transmit the same to the Quarter Master by his express who is waiting an answer.

We are, Sir, very respectfully,

Your most obed^t Servants.By order of y^e board,

TIM. PICKERING.

*Directed,*His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President, &c.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, June 4, 1779.

Sir,

The Board have been honoured with your Favor of the 3d. Mr. Brooks was appointed Town Major by order of Congress during their Residence at York Town.* We intended to have discharged him on Congress leaving that Place, but on examining into the matter we found it would be necessary to have a careful Person there to rectify Returns of Provisions, &c., for passing Troops. It appears that between two & three thousand Soldiers have passed thro' & drawn Rations at that Post on their Way to & from the Southward, within these few months, & we believe that a Saving more than equal to Mr. Brooks' Appointment has ensued from his being stationed at the Post. We have it however now in Contemplation to discharge him, as we would wish to avoid even the Appearance of keeping up unnecessary Offices.

We have the Honour to be,

with great Respect,

Your very obed. Servants.

RICHARD PETERS,

By order.

Directed,

On public Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the Sup. Ex. Council of Pennsylvania.

(War Office.)

* See page 456.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, June 5, 1779.

Sir,

We have this Moment received Intelligence that the Enemy have possessed themselves of the Redoubt at Kingsferry, & are proceeding to invest Fort Arnold at West Point. The Militia in that Quarter are destitute of Ammunition, & the Sizes proper for them are at Lebanon. We beg therefore an Order from the Council to procure Waggons for the immediate Transportation of the Ammunition to Camp. Twenty Waggons will be necessary at least, as we have other Articles to send, as well as that Ammunition.

We are, Sir,

with great Respect,

Your very obed. Serv^t.

RICHARD PETERS,

By Order.*

Directed,

On public Service.

His Excellency The President of y^e State.
(War Office.)

CHAS. PETTIT, A. Q. M. G., TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 5 June, 1779.

Sir,

Since I had the honor of conversing with two of the Gentlemen of the Council yesterday, on the subject of the Facts suggested in a petition which they shewed me, relative to continental Waggons and Horses remaining idle at several places, while those of the State were called into service,—I have enquired farther into the matter and find the circumstances were such as I then mentioned; to wit, that these Horses were under orders to proceed to Camp to be attached to the Army; that most of them had been moved forward for that purpose, but by a countermanding order from the Commander in Chief they were detained for a few Days, but to be in constant readiness to move on the shortest notice; that orders have since been given to hasten them on to Camp with all possible diligence, and that they are in motion accordingly.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 16.

I am also informed that the late orders of the Council for calling out Teams to transport stores from this and other places to the Susquehanna have been so slightly obeyed that a considerable number of continental Teams, intended for the use of the Army, have, from necessity, been turned into this Service; which, it is apprehended, will work injurious consequences by a failure in the number of Teams relied upon to follow the Army from its late Encampment in Jersey; from whence it has been obliged to move so suddenly as to leave great part of the Baggage and Stores behind.

If it were possible to effect the requisite transportation in this State without resorting to executive authority, we should not trouble the Council with applications for aid, and as we studiously avoid unnecessary calls for this aid, I should hope it would not be retarded thro' want of a due degree of confidence in our discretion in the Application of it.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

CHA. PETTIT,

A. Q. M. G.

His Excellency, The president of the State of Pennsylvania.

CITY COMMITTEE TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Sir,

By order of the Committee I transmit your Excellency the Copy of a Letter, No. 1, to the Merchants, Importers, &c., &c., and No. 2 To the Dealers in and Sellers of flour. We hope that by leaving the supply sufficient for home Consumption to their discretion and management it will point out to them the absolute necessity of keeping the markets supplied, by importing all they can in the first instance and procuring flour in the last, as well for their own interest and advantage as to secure themselves from the disagreeable consequences of an artificial scarcity. And we likewise conceive that by this proceeding we leave Trade in its proper Channel and free ourselves from any murmuring or Complaints which the merchants might otherwise have to alledge or make against us.

We hope the efforts of our fellow Citizens to redeem and support the Credit of the Currency, by gradually reducing the Prices of goods and Provisions, will be a means of removing those numerous Complaints and murmurings that have of late so generally prevailed.

The task allotted to us we shall endeavour to execute with the utmost care and circumspection, and tho' in the discharge thereof

many difficulties may arise, we shall be careful not to increase them by taking on ourselves to act in or to determine on Matters which, by the constitution and Laws of this State are within the precinct of government, and for the redress of which there is already sufficient authority.

In making these declarations to your Excellency I feel a pleasure in having it in my power to add that the confidence which the Committee, as Citizens of this State, repose in the Wisdom, integrity and Patriotism of the President and Council, is of itself a sufficient Testimony that their proceedings will always have in view the support of legal Government, as well as the redress of Evils for which no sufficient laws are yet in being. And should it happen that in the progress of the duty allotted us we should discover practices deserving the attention of government, we shall think it our duty to lay the same before the Honorable Council or Assembly, as the case may require, and we hope from them cheerfully every assistance they can render us, so far as the legal or discretionary powers of Government can interpose to prevent any unnecessary and destructive rise in the Prices of goods and Provisions.

By order of the Committee.

I have the Honor to be

Your Excellency's obed^t &

Very humble serv^t,

WILLIAM HENRY,

Chairman.

In Committee, June 5th, 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

No. 1.

In Committee, June 5th, 1779.

Whereas, intimations have been thrown out and apprehensions have arisen therefrom that sundry Merchants, Importers and others will immediately remove the goods they now have, and hereafter order their importation to some place or Port out of this State, with design to evade or defeat the present Regulations for appreciating the Currency. And whereas such intimations and apprehensions, however groundless, may become the cause of future discontent, To

the Injury of Commerce and the Reputation of many worthy Inhabitants of this State. Therefore,

Resolved, that the following Letter be sent to the Merchants, Importers, Resident in the City of Philadelphia and its neighbourhood, in order to remove any such intimations and apprehensions as well as to prevent the Consequences arising therefrom.

Gentlemen :

We address ourselves to you as men mutually interested with you and you with us, in the support of one Common Cause, the happiness, prosperity, and independence of our Country.

We conceive that the Regulation of prices is, and must be, an agreeable Circumstance to yourselves, because the two immediate Consequences to you are, the giving value to the money you have already in hand and reducing the Price of produce which constitutes a part of your merchandize. We are sensible you must severely feel the depreciation of the Money, and that the views of *getting* ought now to give way to the thoughts of *making* that money good.

We observe that Imported Goods take the lead in Prices, and become the Rule of Regulation for Country produce and other matters, and we apply to you in this respect as fellow Citizens whom we wish to interest cheerfully with ourselves in keeping the Market as reasonable as possible, that good order may be preserved in the City.

Having concisely stated those matters to you, which we are sensible your own Judgment and Interest will, on the first reflection, induce you to support. We have farther to observe,

That it is our wish and intention to throw no difficulties in the way of trade and Commerce, but on the Contrary to give every assistance thereto. *To yourselves we leave the direction and management of always preserving a sufficiency to supply the state you live in, and to you only will the state look for that supply.* We will grant the permits you may require, but we must at the same time point out to you the necessity of supplying the decrease by importation, so as to render the Port and market of Philadelphia as opulent and plentiful as your endeavours can contribute.

We consider the people of America as one people, and wish to share with them and they with us in all things, both of advantage and difficulty, and if Philadelphia can be rendered the Market for other States, in the present time of hazardous Importation, we shall be glad to see it done. *But for the sake of preventing intimations and apprehensions, which, by getting abroad may injuriously affect your own honor and convenience, as well as for the general good of the state, we must press on you the absolute necessity of keeping your own Market supplied.*

So far as our Circle of deputed power extends we shall give every Just and necessary assistance to the Importer, and shall rejoice at every opportunity and occasion of doing them honor and Justice

before the Public. And in order thereto we shall be glad in the first instance to exchange with you the following engagement, That as you on your Parts will not occasion a Scarcity to take the advantage of it, so we, on the Part of the Public, will not take the advantage of any extraordinary Quantities you may import by making it a pretence to reduce them below their Value, for our wish is to supply other States and ourselves likewise.

By order of the Committee.

WILLIAM HENRY, Chairman.

- No. 1. Copy of a Letter to the Merchants, Importers, &c., &c.

—
No. 2.

In Committee, June 5th, 1779.

Whereas, Intimations have been thrown out and apprehensions have arisen therefrom that the Dealers in and sellers of flour in this City will by concealment or neglect in procuring the said article, defeat or embarrass the measures now adopted for the appreciation of the Currency.

And whereas, such intimations and apprehensions, however groundless, may, in a little time, become the cause of great uneasiness and discontents and injure the Reputation of the individuals concerned.

Therefore Resolved, that the following Letter be sent to the Dealers in and Sellers of Flour, in order to remove any such intimations and apprehensions as well as to prevent the consequences arising therefrom.

Gentlemen,

As it is our wish to guard against every Evil or inconvenience that may happen, and as the near approach of a very promising harvest must, in a little time, bring down the price of flour and render it plentiful, so we hope that by the cheerful assistance of those who are most conversant in the methods of supplying the City with flour, that every such means will be used as may prevent murmurings arising from the want of it.

We beg to be informed by you what prospect you have of procuring flour; and every industry you may use therein we shall with pleasure do you justice for, before the Public, and every assistance we can give you may depend on. Yet we must beg leave to intimate to you that should a scarcity happen, thro' any real or supposed inattention in you, whose business it hath hitherto been to deal in that article, that discontents, far beyond our power to remedy, may probably take place; for the want of flour has in all Countries pro-

duced the most fatal Resentments; besides which, the Public, considering the near approach of harvest, cannot now be induced to believe there can be any real scarcity; yet, as we before mentioned, we shall be glad to do justice to your Industry in procuring it.

By order of the Committee.

WILLIAM HENRY, Chairman.

No. 2. Copy of a Letter to the dealers in & Sellers of Flour.

COL. BRODHEAD TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Pittsburgh, 5th June, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I am honored with your Letters of the 30th of last Month & the 22nd (?) of this instant.

General McIntosh has ever been somewhat unfortunate in his representations & ideas of matters in this Department and I suppose you have already been informed that the greatest part of the garrison at that post, Fort Laurens were obliged to be sent in or perish about the 16th of last month. Major Varnum with only 25 privates kept it untill the 26th and lived on Herbs Salt & Cowhides untill I sent him a supply to last a garrison 75 rank & file to the 19th instant and in doing this I was obliged to rob the other Garrisons of every pound of salt provisions, at a time too when I had no fresh meat to subsist them on. As to the propriety or use of maintaining that post I shall transcribe a voluntary opinion, I gave his Excellency the Commander in Chief on that point, Viz^t, The throwing in of supplies to Fort Laurens is always attended with great Expence and a large Escort is required to Guard the provisions which are necessary to subsist a Garrison at that distance in the Enemies Country, without the Benefit of water Carriage, and the Frontier must in the meantime be uncovered & the Countrymen called out from their Farms, Should live Cattle be sent to that post the enemy may either drive them off for their future Consumption or destroy them when they please to do it, & consequently the Garrison must suffer. Besides it is an easy matter for the Enemy to come against it with a couple of pieces of artillery and a number of Savages Black & White by way of Kyahaga & make themselves masters of it before the siege can be raised. I might have added that the scalping parties do now hold up their Scalps & give the Hallub in sight of the Garrison but I am now at liberty to evacuate if I find I cannot support it. Gen^l McIntosh must have influenced his Excell^y into a favourable opinion of the use of that post as well as Fort McIntosh. Or the General must have reasons that I am a stranger to, however I shall establish a post at Kittanning in a few days which from the nature of that Country will be of

great security to the Inhabitants, because there are but few passes I sincerely wish I had been permitted to co-operate with the Body moving up the Susquehanna because I think it would have answered a better purpose than a single body will, but the event must determine the propriety of the measure. You may depend on my close attention to the protection of the Settlements, but I have told his Excellency the Commander in chief that I can more effectually protect them with one thousand men acting offensively than with three times that number on a defensive plan, and I have received no answer to induce me to alter my opinion. I have lately wrote a very angry Letter to the Lieu^t of Westmoreland County & desired him to show it to some of his principal officers, this is on account of a backwardness in them to give any assistance in what they are required to do by the Command^g officers of this Departm^t but I cannot avoid taking all possible care of them. And I beg you will write to them and inculcate a Spirit of subordination, which is much wanting. I have the pleasure to inform you that I have now a party out to take a Scalp or a prisoner, and another party is preparing for a Tour. I believe I could with the assistance of some Indian Goods Wampum & trinkets, engage the Delawares to pull off some of them under the Mingoes Scalps, but it will be difficult to do it with words only. I would readily agree to a premium for Indian Scalps but I should not chuse to offer a reward for the Scalps of the British untill I get some distance into the Indian Country, so as to prevent a perversion of the real design of Government. You may rest assured that every officer & soldier in my Reg^t entertain the highest gratitude to the State for the exertions of the legislature, and I hear of no late objections to the Government, but apprehend it is looked up to with proper respect. Col. Bayard has informed me that an ample supply is on the road & it is expected here in a few days, but I should have been happy to have been acquainted with the intended proportions to Officers & Men & under what regulations it should be issued & by whom, but I take it for granted that is left to me, since nothing has been said. I have no doubt of receiving a proportion of every necessary for my reg^t in time & I assure you I wish not to be supplied to the injury of the other Reg^t but mine must be confest to be one of the best of the line, and I trust that as soon as I have latitude provided, it is not too late, their action as it has heretofore done will claim your esteem, but in this desultory kind of action discipline will necessarily be relaxed for which I am heartily sorry, yet dare not complain.

Congress has furnished me with a considerable sum of Money to recruit my reg^t & I must wait with patience to receive the State Bounty. As to the unhappy dispute between our State & Virginia, I conceive not a word will be said untill the Boundaries are fixed, both sides of the question. I despise unjust Claims but this is not the time for a Litigation. It is with pleasure I hear that the ill timed disputes in our State & I hope more Extensive ones (except

the inquiry into a rascal Deans Conduct) have subsided. I hope to hear from you soon again, but I had almost forgot that I have another of your favors to answer, and I beg leave to assure you that I begin to fear we carry our defensive plan too far, this was prudent at first, but I conceive we are now in a Condition to reduce the Enemy & prevent their intended irruptions. This Country cannot be conquered and I am surprized that such rascals as Tories have now an existence amongst us, perhaps this may be owing to the pedling disposition of some of that Body who should be Honorable & whose Character ought to be sacred. I have many Garrisons my force does not exceed 800 effectives, but if I was at liberty I could with these compell the Savages to look to their Families. I beg you will not be too much Concerned about Westmoreland & Bedford Counties, I will take care of them, but they must be subordinate & assist in their own salvation and leave me to judge for them & not them for me.

I have very little concern about the articles of which I sent my Son a list, nor do I wish to have them considering the present scarcity for I am assured you would indulge me as soon as another officer of my rank & I want no more.

There is nothing I so much dread as a dishonorable peace, for Heavens sake let every good Man hold up his Hands against it. We have never suffered half I expected we should, and I am willing to suffer much more for the glorious cause for which I have & wish to bleed.

It gives me exquisite pain to find you complain because I know your determination. I wish Congress had sunk double the sum they have ordered, People think nothing of the money & would part with it freely.

I doubt the Enemies having gained an advantage over Gen. Lincoln unless they were in much greater Force. I have the Honor to be intimately acquainted with him & believe him to be an excellent Officer.

I have taken the liberty to inclose Copies of several Letters containing interesting Intelligence, and I have now near 500 good men in readiness to oppose Mr. Butler should the intelligence I have received be authentic.

I am greatly oblidged for the Honor you have repeatedly done my Son.

I cannot conclude this scrawl without first earnestly intreating you to endeavour to convince the Inhabitants of Westmoreland of their mistake in refusing to obey the Commanding officers orders & relating a moving circumstance. How a part of my Reg^t was circumstanced at Fort Laurens, I have already mentioned, under these Circumstances as Westmoreland County had twice refused or neglected to send out men under Gen. McIntosh, I conceived they would readily send out a few Horses for the relief of their Countrymen & accordingly demanded fifty Horses from that County. But my men might have perished for them, not a Horse did they furnish, and had I not suspected them from their former Conduct, and ordered some of the

States Horses my officers & soldiers must have perished, which they would have done before they would evacuate without orders. The difficulty of Governing this Department without resources is inconceivable but I am blest with a great stock of patience. I should have done myself the Honor to have answered Col. Jn^o Bayards Letter by this Express but I hope he will pardon me, I know the generous Connexion between you & whilst that lasts I beg a Letter to one may be received as a letter to both.

With every mark of the most sincere Regard & Esteem,

I have the Honor to be

your most obed^t & H^ble Serv^t,

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

I have begged Col^o Stephen to write to Col^o John Bayard.

Directed,
His Excellency Gov^r Reed.

Indorsed,
Read in Council June 18, 1779

V. P. BRYAN TO GEORGE ROSS, 1779.

Philada. 5th June, 1779.

Council have heard thro' the Delagates in Congress for this State that the claimants of the Sloop Active & Cargo have been soliciting that honorable body for an advance of public money on the ground of their pretensions, & from motives of Compassion, &c. This our Delegates have opposed, & have said that they could not be in distress, inasmuch as their claim to one fourth part of the prize in question was undisputed, & the money lay ready for their use. The board incline to the Ideas of the Gentlemen in Congress, as the dispute, in a legal view, is now at an end, & wish to give no advantage against the State in the farther discussion upon this business that will probably take place next fall. I wish, therefore, that it may be your opinion that the claimants or their Attornies in fact be paid the remaining quarter of the nett proceeds of the Sloops Active & Cargo, if they think fit to demand it, giving a simple receipt for the same.

I am, &c.,

G. B., V. P.

P. S. Council have appointed Mr. Robinson to be register of the Court of Admiralty.

Directed,
To Hon. Geo. Ross, Esquire.

T. MATLACK TO MAJOR SCULL, 1779.

Sir,

Enclosed is a warrant to the Waggon Master of Lancaster, commanding the supply of Waggon's this day demanded by the Board of War for transporting ammunition from Lebanon to the Army on the North river.*

I am respectfully

your humble servant,

T. MATLACK, Secy.

June 5, 1779.

Directed,

To Major Scull, Secy Board of War.

V. P. BRYAN TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

In Council, Philadelphia, 5 June, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Your favour of yesterday concerning the Barrack master at York has been communicated to the Council. Your request of a Warrant for Waggon's to carry Stores from Lebanon to Lancaster is complied with. You will find it, together with the Letters from Coll^d Patten, &c^a, which you sent to the Record^r, inclosed. As no number is ascertained either by you or the D. Quarter-master, it is made out for twenty, on a supposition that for so short a journey they may make divers trips & easily perform the service.

In conformity also to your call for 20 Waggon's to carry ammunition, &c^a, from Lebanon to Camp, I hand you another warrant authorising the drawing forth of the number required. I depend on your care in sending these authorities to the Waggon master of Lancaster County,

& am Sir,

Your most obed^t Serv^t,

G. B., V. P.

Directed,

Hble. Board of War.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 16.

PRES. REED TO JOHN CARSON, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 1st Inst has been duly received.

As the Men will want hunting Shirts & are entitled to them by a Resolution of Assembly, we should be glad you would procure them if possible, & such other Articles as are comprized in the Encouragement promised the Recruits. Council approve of your supplying the Pouches & Powder Horns, not doubting but that in the whole of the Disbursements you will use the utmost Frugality & Oeconomy. Capt. Campbell, who is also raising a Company in your County, will probably apply to you in the like Manner; if so you will please to furnish him with the like Articles. As we hope to have all these Things brought into a Continental Settlement you will see the Propriety of having all Vouchers as correct & clear as possible.

We send you by Mr. Agnew 10,000 Dollars, which we hope will prove an ample Supply for the present. If more is necessary we will endeavour to furnish you upon Application. Where the Guns & Accoutrements are found by the publick they will of course be returned, you will therefore be good enough to give this in Charge to the Captains whom you Supply, that Justice may be done the State when the Term of Service expires.

I am with due Regard,

Sir, your most

Obed. Hbble. Serv^t,

JOS. REED, President.*

Directed,

On publick Service.

To John Carson, Esq^r, Carlisle.

Fav^d by Mr Agnew.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 16.

PRES. REED TO COL. ANDREW BOYD, 1779.

To Col. Andrew Boyd, Sub. Lieut. of Chester County.

In Council, Philad^a, June 7th, 1779.

Sir,

In Answer to your Favour respects the Township of East Marlborough, we would observe that a Township thus contemptuously & obstinately evading the necessary & wholesome Regulations which have been made for Defence & Security, can deserve no more Favour than the rigorous Construction of Law will give. Upon examining the Law we find that you are not confined to the Township in the Choice of Officers, but that the County being divided into Districts, & those Districts subdivided into Eight Parts, the District is to chuse the Field Officers, & the Subdivisions to chuse the inferiour officers & Court martial Men. From this you will see that the Election is not confined to the Township but to the District, & as in forming the Districts Doubtless a Regard was paid to the Convenience of the Inhabitants & the probability of Service, if the other Parts of the District do not elect you have a Right to appoint—nor do we find that this Appointment or Election is so confined to the District or Township, but it may be made out of it; and it being in support of a necessary Law, & to lay an equal Burthen, your Act will doubtless have a very favourable Construction. But it does not appear equally clear that you can now compel them to muster or exact the Fines—we would therefore advise you to proceed in forming the Company upon these Principles, & it will be best to do it as soon as possible, least if there should be a Call for actual Service they may also rescue themselves from that Duty also, which may have still worse Consequences.

We have never yet received the Report of those Townships who refuse to return their Property, from which we hope they have complied. As we are resolved to have this Law in a more especial Manner fully executed, we hope no false Tenderness or Delicacy will delay or obstruct these measures. Such Delinquents will find Government sufficiently able & willing to compel them, as we can never comprehend the Reason or Propriety of giving the Benefit of Government to those who refuse to contribute to its necessary support.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hble. ser.

COL. MATTHEW SMITH TO GOUVERNEUR MORRIS, 1779.

Philad^a, 7th June, 1779.

Sir,

We are desired by the Council of this State to lay before you some papers which respects a parcell of flour in the hands of Mr. Levy Hollinsworth of this City.* Among them there is one in your hand writing which directs the delivery of the flour to Mr. Risburg issuing Commissary. There is no small uneasiness among the people on the subject from which we fear some inconveniences. Certainly the business has the appearance of great impropriety in some concerned. It will oblige us if you can make it convenient to meet with us in the Council Chamber to morrow forenoon precisely at ten of the Clock, when we wish to lay before you some letters and other papers that may be needful for you to peruse.

We are Sir,

your very obedient Servant

GEORGE BRYAN,
MATTHEW SMITH.*Directed,*To Hon'ble Gouverneur Morris, Esq^r.

PRES. REED TO COUNTY MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY, 1779.

Philadelphia, June 7th, 1779.

Sir,

I have the Pleasure of transmitting you herewith the Journals of Congress so far as they are published. The limited number of Copies to each State being only 20, does not allow us to send each Member a Sett, we therefore must beg you after Perusal to send them to your Colleagues that each may have an Opp^r to know how the publick Affairs are proceeding.

I cannot help congratulating you upon the present favourable Appearance of our publick Affairs. We have the fullest Reason to believe the Enemy have been totally routed in South Carolina. A Number of Arrivals from different Parts with West Indian & European Goods, with the Success of the Privateers to the Eastward, have given us a Prospect of Plenty & a Decline of Prices. We trust our good Friends in the Country, when they find the Spirit of

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 16, 18.

Extortion & Extravagance declining in the City, & that they can get Supplies of what they want on reasonable Terms, will also follow the Example as to their Produce, to which they seem also encouraged by the plentiful Harvest which Providence has furnished. We hope also that in a little Time there will be a different Appearance of publick Credit, as Means are taking for its Restoration which I trust will be more completely effectual than any yet pursued.

I am Sir, with due Regard,
your most obed &
very Hble Serv.

GEN. JOHN SULLIVAN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Head Quarters Easton, June 7th, 1779.

Sir,

I am Honord with your Excellency's favour of the 8d Inst;* I am Happy to Find your Excellency and the Council Pursuing Every measure to Forward the Expedition, and Lament Exceedingly the Obstructions you meet from the measures adopted in the Quarter Masters Department, but as it is too Late to Remedy the Evil and the Season is so far advanc'd, I doubt not Every Effort will be used on your Part to have the Troops sent on with Expedition, as the Army if moved to Wioming must wait their arrival, as our Numbers will fall far short of what was suposed, and the Army must Remain there Consumeing the Provisions Intended for the Expedition, untill those Troops have Join'd, I Have so Great a Desire for the Service of Gen'l Potter and so High an opinion of him, that I will Give him a Command Equal to his Wishes; I think with you that the Stores will be safe below Augusta, Though Gen. Hand seems to be of a Contrary Opinion. I shall not call upon the Companies Raised for special Defence or upon the Militia of Northumberland but in Case of Absolute Necessity, I beg your Excellency and the Council to Accept my most Grateful Acknowledgements for the Early Provision you have made in such Case, and that you will believe me to Be with the most Lively Sentiments of Esteem.

your Excellency's
most Obedient
and very Humble Servant
JNO. SULLIVAN.

Directed,

On public service.

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See page 447.

GOVERNOR WM. LIVINGSTON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Bordentown, 7 June, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I met accidentally with a Lady last Evening, that among a multitude of other passengers, had just landed here out of the Stage Boat from Philadelphia. She acknowledges herself bound for New York, after she shall have staid at Amboy as long she thinks proper. She pretends to have been taken with Burgoyne's Army, in which she says that her husband (a Canadian) fell; & that she has a Brother in the British Service in New York with the Convention Prisoners; she says she march'd to Virginia, & has travelled thence to this place, without a pass from any State. I take her to be one of their female news carriers, & have sent her back to the last State she came from. She confessed to the passengers in the boat that she had been both at Quebec & New York, since the surrender of Burgoyne. Your Excellency, upon her further examination, may either think proper to send her along further Southward, or in case she may only be permitted to go to New York, to grant her your pass, according to the resolve of Congress.

I am, Dear Sir,

with great Esteem,

your Excellencys most h'ble serv't,

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

She says she will go to Philadelphia if she must, but that she is determined to get to New York without any pass.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia.

COL. JOHN MITCHELL TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Quarter Masters Office, June 8th, 1779.

Sir,

The Commissary has this day required me to furnish him with Teams Sufficient to Transport 350 Barrels Flour, & 350 Barrels of Salt Provisions Weekly, to Easton, in this State, from whence they are to be sent to the Army, by way of Sussex Court House or New Windsor.

To accomplish this duty it will require two Hundred good four Horse Teams, one Hundred to load every Week, by this mode there will not be above five days provisions at any time on hand at Camp,

provided no Accident happens; this is, I believe, the smallest number can be depended on to Supply the Army, and this is only half the Demand for the Army, but the other goes by Water to Trenton, and will consequently require no Teams from this State.

You was pleased to grant two Warrants some time ago to Col. Pettitt, A. Q. M. G'l, one for Forty to Col. Moore of this County, and one to Col. Boyd of Chester County for Sixty, which warrants I sent to those Gentlemen, only requiring one half to be sent to me, but I have as yet received but one Team from Col. Moore, and none from Col. Boyd, tho' I have Repeated my Request that they would be as expeditious as possible, the Commissary having required a number of Teams to send Liquors, Salt, &c, to Potowmack River, where Conococheague Empties itself into that River, and have been obliged to send the Publick Teams with part of those Stores, which I intended to send to the Army.

If your Excellency and the Council will grant me a Warrant for two hundred Teams from Chester, Philadelphia, and Bucks County's or any others you think proper, exclusive of what is already ordered, and direct the County Waggon Master to furnish them *Immediately*, I shall be able to transport the provisions required by the Commissary to Easton, but without your *aid and authority* I cannot comply with the request. I will wait on your Excellency and the Council in person, if it should be thought necessary.

I have the honor to be,

with great respect,

Your Excellency's most

obed^t hum^e Serv^t,

Jⁿ MITCHELL,*

D. Q. M. G'l.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 18, also President Reed's letter to Delegates in Congress. June 9—postea.

COL. THOMAS PROCTOR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Easton, June the 9th, 1779.

Sir,

Captain Rice* of My Reg^t, being sent to Philadelphia on particular duty, take the opportunity of requesting your Excellency to lay before the Hon^{ble} Executive Council, the Inclosed return of Recruits, who are Intitled to the bounty of the State, which has not, by any means, been receiv'd for them, but have been paid 200 dollars each on the 19th Ult^r, the bounty rec'd from the Board of War. Nothing but their Importunities Cou'd prompt me to be Thus Troublesome at this Juncture, and request, if possible, the same be paid into the hands of Captain Rice.

I am,

Your most obed't serv't,

THOMAS PROCTOR, Col. P. A.

Directed,

To Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Hon^{ble} Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

CAPT. JAMES MONTGOMERY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

New Castle June y^e 9th, 1779.

Sir,

I have the Pleasure of informing your Excellency that on the 7th ultimo I fell in with and tooek the Privateer Brig^t Impertinent of ten Dubel fortifid four Pounders Cap^t Jacob Getshues of New York out for Days who Struck Imeadently She is a very fine Brig and Sails very fast.

Stood in for the Cape with our Prize and at 11 P. M. anchored abreast of the Cape but was much Surprised in the morning to See two frigates lying in the Road but the wind beeing at N. E. and a strong Ebb tid, had Nothing to fear from them made Sail and made a tack to the Eastwrd and Stood up the Bay with my Prize I have Now Learned they are two of our frigates Going out on a Cruze, at aney rate thought best to Com up hear having a Great Number of Prisonors on board and a Great Part of my own Crew Such villons that they would be glad of an oportunity to take the Ship from me Som of the Ringleaders I have Sent up in Irons and for Particulars Lieu^t Casson will Inform your Excelency, I must have at least twenty or thirty Seamen mor I Realey have Not Got Six on board of the Ship.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII, p. 22.

If your Excellency will be so Good as to admit Cap^t Getshue on Parrol I Shall Esteem it as a Particular favour if your Excellency would take the trubell to Examining him he will Give you a Great deal of usefull Information in Regard to the British Cruzers on our Coast in the maintim Shall wait your Excellency's further order.

I remain your mos obe^t

& Hlb^t Serv^t

JAMES MONTGOMERY.*

P. S. We retocok a Virginey Schooner two Days before which is lickewise safe arived.

Our Mizen mast is intiearley Rotton.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed Esquire.

JOHN AVERY JR. OF MASS. TO HON. JAMES LOVELL, 1779.

Boston June 9th, 1779.

Dear Sir,

Inclosed you have the Report of the Com^{tee} mentioned in my last respecting the Exchange of Mr. Coats This Mr Maxwell who goes for the Purpose of said Exchange is a Gentleman of great Influence with the Enemy at New York, and of equal Rank, and therefore make no Doubt it will be obtained. I hope this will be Satisfactory to you and his Excellency Governor Reed. Mr Maxwell will be sent forward immediately to New York. My time will not permit me to add, as Maj^r Masereau is just seting off for the Southward.

I am with all due Respect

Your very Hum^{ble} Serv^t

JOHN AVERY, Jr.

Directed,

Hon^{ble} James Lovell.†

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 19, 20, 23.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 51.

PRESIDENT REED TO DELEGATES OF PENNSYLVANIA IN
CONGRESS, 1779.

In Council,

Philad.; June 9th, 1779.

Gentlemen:

Having yesterday in Conference* with you represented the Difficulties which have occurred in complying with the Demand made by the Q^r Masters Department for Waggon^s to transport Provisions to the Army, it is unnecessary to repeat any of the Observations we then made. We trust you are sufficiently informed upon the Subject to make such Communications as may be necessary. This Morning we have had a Conference with the Assist. Q^r Master General & the D^r Commiss^r of Purchases, they express their Anxiety for the Army in such cogent Terms as necessarily creates with us the most powerful Inducements to co-operate with them on this important Occasion. We have & shall continue not only to exert our Authority, but add our Influence of every Kind to promote & advance their Measures, but we clearly perceive that in so doing we have to combat a most powerful Principle of Interest, & that it is indispensably necessary to give some farther Encouragement to stimulate our People to co-operate with us. To explain ourselves further it may be necessary to descend to particulars. The Assembly unwilling to increase public Charges, fixed the daily Hire of a Waggon at £4. 10. pr. Day—at that Time it was tho not an equal relative Price it was tolerable—but now Prices are so much changed that the Shoeing the Horses in a rough strong Country, will take in some Instances the whole & in all a great Part of the Hire, for the Shoeing of a Horse all round cannot be done under £4. This has been hitherto done by the Owner, & proved one of the greatest Obstructions to the Service. We venture, Gentlemen, to assure you that the Service is now so burthensome that at this Time a Bounty of 500 Dollars has been offered to a made up Team by the Owners of Single Horses to induce the Owner of the Team to put into the Service & return them. This operates as a most heavy tax, in many Instances equal to all which the Persons pay on the Accounts. We intimated to the Q^r Masters our Desire that they would represent to Congress the Necessity of giving some additional Encouragement, but from Motives of Delicacy considering the System of the department they declined it. We think this Encouragement should be proportional to the Price now paid in the usual Course of Business. To enable you to form some Judgment of the Extent of this Encouragement we must acquaint you that a Driver cannot now be hired for less than 8 Dollars ^{per} Day, which added to the Shoeing the Horses & ordinary repair of

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 18, 19.

the Waggon will leave the Owner in Debt after receiving his whole Wages.

We have been in Doubt whether this Measure should not come thro the Medium of the Board of War, but the pressing Exigency of the Service not admitting a Moments Delay, has induced us to lay it before you in the first Instance, you will then set in it as the Rules of your Hon. House require. But we cannot conclude without expressing our Apprehensions that all our Authority & Exertions will be insufficient to comply with the Q^r Masters Requisitions, which are now very considerable, if the Measure suggested should fail of the Approbation of Congress. The common private Hire is now from £12 to £20 ^{per} Day, & the Gov^r of Maryland on a late Occasion went so far as £22 ^{per} Day for transporting Flour, as we are informed. From all which Circumstances it may be inferred that the Service tho of the most Essential Kind, will suffer if some Measure of Relief is not speedily adopted. To direct the Horses to be shod by the Q^r Masters will we fear be liable to Abuses & Inconveniences, as the Waggoners will insist upon it in all Cases, we would therefore recommend that the daily Pay be increased, & also the Q^r Masters directed to shoe the Horses in Case of Necessity, but then that a Deduction be made therefor.

I am, Gent.*

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GENERAL WASHINGTON TO
CONGRESS, 1779.

Dated Smith's Clove, June 11th, 1779.

The Enemy's Situation remains much the same as mentioned in mine of the 6th.—One body of about 5000 men is on Verplanks point and another of about 1000 on Stony point—They continue Fortifying & no doubt mean to keep possession of those posts—The natural Strength of the ground with very little help of art will make them inaccessible to us in our present circumstances—The advantages of holding them will be important to the enemy—the inconveniences to us great—It is a Stop to further operations against the forts—Our communication by King's Ferry, far the easiest, is at an end—the extent & difficulty of land transportation considerably increased—a new resort and Sanctuary afforded to the disaffected in these parts of the country and a new door opened to draw Supplies distress and corrupt the inhabitants—reasons which need not be explained put it out of my power to prevent it beforehand or to remedy it now it has happened.

* See Letter of John Mitchell, on page 474.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, June 11, 1779.

Sir,

Enclosed we have sent a Copy of a Letter from Cap^t Pitcairne one of the Prisoners at Reading* on Behalf of y^e whole of them. The Board directed their removal, but as they seem to be disposed to behave more orderly & the removing them is attended with considerable Expence, we are willing if Council have no weighty Objections that they should remain there during good Behaviour. If the Inclinations of the Inhabitants are as Cap^t Pitcairne represents perhaps the Affair is accomodated to their Satisfaction & no farther Uneasiness will ensue. As we wish on this & every other Occasion in the Prosecution of our Business in this State to harmonize with your Excellency & the Hon : Council we request your Opinion upon the Subject especially as you have better Opportunities of knowing the Temper of the People who will be affected by the Prisoners remaining at Reading.

We have the Honour to be

with the greatest Respect & Esteem

Your very obed. Servants,

RICHARD PETERS.

By Order.

Directed,

On public Service, His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq., President of y^e Council of Pennsylvania.

(War Office)

Gov. WM. LIVINGSTON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Trenton, 12 June, 1779.

Sir,

The Prisoner herewith sent you, Mrs. Charlotte Latima,* appears by her own confession to be a Cannadian, & to have been taken with General Burgoyne's Army ; since which she has been twice to New York ; and when she was apprehended at Bordentown, whither she came from Philadelphia in the Stage-boat, she was again bound to New York. As soon as she landed she deposited her trunks with one Watson a notorious Tory, & then came to the Tavern where I ordered her to be kept till she would be sent back to Philadelphia.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 212.

† See page 474.

But she escaped from thence and was apprehended on her way to New York and brought to this place. From hence she again made her escape & was again apprehended. She protests she will go to New York in defiance of all men, & appears to me extremely well calculated for, & is doubtless employed in, carrying dispatches for the Enemy. The Papers found upon her I inclose, which seem of no good consequence. Probably your Excellency will think proper to send her along to Virginia where she left the Convention Troops, or confine her in Philadelphia till she is better known. She appears by some Memoranda in her pocket book to be a very great traveller, & by one of the Letters, to have lodged some time with Mr. Dayman in Philadelphia, who will doubtless be able to give some Account of her.

I have the honor to be with great Respect

Your Excellency's

most obedient & very

humble Servant,

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq., President of the Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

CHAS. PATTIN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philada., 12 June, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I send you inclosed the Draught of my plan* of Finance. If it affords you any useful hints in framing one from the result of the joint Opinions of the Gentlemen you have consulted on the subject, it will give me pleasure. But as those Gentlemen hold Opinions widely different from mine, and I conceive the whole merit of my Plan, if it has any merit at all, depends on the consistency of its parts Strengthening & Supporting each other, I am apprehensive it would not bear the alterations necessary to accommodate it with theirs without perhaps injuring both. Each of them may however furnish Thoughts that may tend to make the other more complete, but I should imagine that as Systems, which tho' inconsistent with each other, may either of them separately be useful, it would be better to consider them separately. You will be pleased to return me the

Not found.

thought again, when you have made such use of it as you may think proper.

I am, Dr Sir,

Yours affectionately,

CHA. PETTIT.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

COL. RICH'D BUTLER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Camp at Smith's Clove, 14th June, 1779.

Sir,

I am Sorry to trouble your Excellency on a Subject that I find too many Instances of in our Army—it is the distressed Situation of a number of our Soldiers wives & families, many of the latter too large to move, & by the incursions of the Savages reduc'd to great want, & is the cause of many Applications for Discharges which if Complied with would deprive us of a number of our best men, who by their family Attachments are tied to the Interest of the Country.

One particular case is that of a Henry Cottingham, a Serjeant of my Regt, who has a wife & four small Children at Carlisle, in a very distress'd Situation, being drove down Susquehanna from their home; he is a good Serjeant, writes well, & under my Care is very useful, but a little given to drink; he has often Applied for his discharge, but I cannot think he would be of much Service to his family, owing to that Circumstance, yet would be a loss to the Publick, & General Irvine & Capt'n Grant of my Regt Informs me he Never took proper care of his Wife & Children, owing to the Recited failing. I therefore think If your Excellency would be so kind as Inclose an Order to me on the Issuing Commissary at Carlisle for such quantity of Provisions as you may think fit, I will forward it to her, which will Satisfy him & be of great use to them, with the woman's Industry. If your Excellency Cant Comply with this Requisition, humanity will Oblige me to Discharge him, which will have a bad tendency, there being so many in the same Predicament, that would plead the same reason for theirs, & of Course Affect the Service.

I am, Sir,

With the Greatest Respect & Esteem,

Your Excellency's most Obedt

Humble Servt,

RICH'D BUTLER,

Col. 9th P. Regt.

irected,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsa., Philada.

R. Butler.

COL. JACOB MORGAN, JR., D. Q. M. G., TO COL. J.
MITCHELL, 1779.

Reading, June 14th, 1779.

Sir,

Yesterday afternoon your express delivered me a Letter directed to my Father, Marked public service; as he lived out of Town, all Public Letters he desires me to open, If they require answers or his immediate Attention.

This as well as the Warrant inclosed is wrong—he is not the Waggon Master of the County. Colo. Henry Haller is Waggon Master Genl of this County, which I thought the Sec'y of Council knew; there was also such a Mistake in the Warrant from the Hon'ble Council of the 22 May; that Warrant was directed to Leonard Right, who never did Act in the Office, tho' he had the Appointment before Colo. Haller was pleased to accept of it.

Colo. Haller brought me the first Letter, which was from Colo. Hooper & Warrant; as the Warrant was not directed to him, he was at a loss what to do and asked my advice; I advised him by all means to execute it immediately, as I was confident the Hon'ble the Executive Council would not grant a Warrant at this busy Season of the Year, if there was not the greatest Necessity for the Teams. He did so, and will in a few Days have the first Called for out, and is now about to execute the one inclosed in your Letter, but he desires you will without loss of time apply to the Hon'ble Council for a Warrant to indemnify him for so doing, as his Conduct will not be justifiable in executing Warrants directed to others; it may be Attended with other bad Consequences, if the Farmers should find out he was executing what was not directed to him, they would sensure him greatly, as at this excessive busy season of the year, they turn out reluctantly.

I am, Sir, with regard,
your most Humble Servant,

JACOB MORGAN, jr.,

D. Q. M. G.

Directed,

Publick Service.

Colo. John Mitchell, D. Q. M. Genl., Philadelphia.

By Express.

COL. L. NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

A deserter from the 17th Light Dragoons has just now left me, the following is what intelligence I could procure from him. The 17th supposed 300 strong, being recruited by the men & horses of the 16th sent home, crossed Hellgate 19th of May with the grenadiers & 83d infantry & marched to Spankin Devil near Kingsbridge where they continued 6 Days, thence by several stages to between the 25 & 26 mile stone, whence he deserted the 3d Inst, were joined by all the troops from New York & Kingsbridge, only the Invalids being left in the former & the foreign infantry at the latter, the grenadiers & infantry went up by water, does not believe there were any foreigners with the army, the Yaugers excepted as all the cavalry reputed 1000 were on the expedition. General Clintons army consisting mostly of tories, the army said to be 14000 strong including 5000 returned from Virginia, understood the intent of the expedition is to take West Point & then proceed up the river to Albany to join the Indians, &c.

Twelve of the 17th Regt had deserted since they crossed Hell gate. No reinforcement have yet arrived from Europe, cannot give any information of the british Army since he left it

Permit me to assure you that

I am with respect your excellencies

most Obedient Servt,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

June 14th, 1779.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

COL. JACOB MORGAN JR., TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Reading, June 14th 1779.

Dear Sir,

I rec^d your favour of the 12th instant & Col. Nagle, & see the urgent necessity of sending out the Teams. I shall leave nothing in my power undone to assist Col. Haller in getting them out, I sent of last week to Camp at middle Brook 86 good Continental Teams & 54 spare Horses and shall to morrow send off one Brigade of Twelve Teams more properly equipt for the Campaign, there shall not be an idle Horse in the County that is fit for service, I made myself so bare of

Horses this week that I put all the publick riding Horses into Teams & one of my own, I am determined neither man or Horse that are in publick service shall eat idle bread in this County. I think we should now exert ourselves as I am in hopes this will be the last Campaign. We are in high spirits here on acc^t of the good News from South Carolina.

Col. Haller is bussey in geting out the Waggon's in which he has great difficulty at this bussey season of year almost all our Farmers have got their Hay down, he is executing the warrants from the Honble Council which were not directed to him as he was determined the service should suffer by any mistake, the first warrant to impress waggons of the 22nd of May is directed to Leonard Right sent here by Gen^l Sullivan the other of the 10th instant is directed to my Father, sent by John Mitchell, D. Q. M. G., which I delivered to Col. Haller, he desire he will be furnished with proper warrants in his own name, I wrote to Mr. Mitchell to send them up to him without loss of time.

in haste, I am D^r Sir,

with sincear respect

your most obed^t Servant,

JACOB MORGAN, jr.

Directed,

Publick Service.

Honble James Read, Esq^r, member of the Supreme Executive Council Philad^a.

By Express.

PRES. REED TO COL. PROCTOR, 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a, June 14th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 9th Inst, with the Inclosures was duly receiv'd & considered by the Board.—As the Advancement of publick Monys is at all Times a Matter of considerable Consequence & at this Time particularly so we have made all suitable Inquiries & referr'd to our Proceedings but cannot find that any recruiting Instructions were given by this Board to any Officer whatever. There have been numerous Applications from the Line for Money & Recruiting Orders, but as we could not supply the first we thought it nugatory to give the Latter, we observe on the 12th March a Resolve of the Assembly in which a discretionary Power is given to us with Regard to the

Supply of Money for your Regiment for the Purposes from which it was natural to infer that we should be consulted previous to any Demand upon us, For we cannot upon any Principle of Propriety encourage the Expenditure of Money in this Way, Having uniformly told the Gentlemen of the Line that the low State of our Treasury did not admit of our engaging ourselves for the Money, we shall be justly charged with Partiality if we thus countenance in one Regiment what we have refused to others. And as a most effectual Measure to avoid these Embarrassments in future we would recommend to you to obtain Directions in writing for such Sources from them on whom demands are afterwards to be made in which Case all Pretence of Denial or Delay would be wholly obviated.—The Amount of the Monies in the present Case is too inconsiderable to take our Attention but the Precedent is very important & especially when considered with Respect to other Troops.—We also expect that upon all Advancements of recruiting Money the Attestations of the Men & Certificates of the Muster should be regularly laid before us, for if we depart from Rule in the Case of one Officer every other will expect it, and as these Inlistments were made long before you went, we think they should have been attended to while all Parties were on the Spott.

Whenever Col. Nicola lays his Orders & the Execution of them in a proper Manner before us we shall do what is proper, but we expect a due Regard to be paid to Regularity & Method on this as well as other Occasions.

I am.

Indorsed,

To Colonel Thomas Proctor

PRES. REED TO COUNTY LIEUT'S, 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a, June 15th, 1779.

Sir,

Tho I am extremely unwilling to disturb the Repose & Security which we now enjoy or create any unnecessary alarm, I cannot but think it my Duty to inform you of present appearances & Solicit a suitable Attention & Vigilance at this Time as the best & surest Protection ag^t Danger.

The Enemy have made an important Movement up the North River in Consequence of which the Continental Army have followed them and are at a Distance of at least 140 Miles, there is not any apparent Object sufficient to justify such a Movement if the Fort at West Point is not attacked from which & other Circumstances many judicious & experienced Officers have supposed & now his Excellency the

Commander in Chief is not without his Apprehensions that the whole is a Diversion to draw off the Continental Army to a great Distance & then availing themselves of the easy Transportation afforded them by Water to make a rapid Incursion into the Country & even attempt this City again if Time & Circumstances should be favourable. In this View & Prospect it becomes my Duty & I do most earnestly request you to make these Sentiments known to the Officers command'g Battalions & urge them as a most necessary Service to see that all the Arms & Accoutrements be procured within their Reach, & ready for Action & that in other Respects they consider themselves in imminent Danger of an Attack & be prepared accordingly on the shortest Notice. The Militia of New Jersey are now actually in this Situation, if not actually embodied & those of New York have discovered great alacrity; and as in Case of any Movement of the Enemy towards this State I shall (with the Assent of the Council) accompany the Militia to the Field & partake of their Danger & Fatigue it would give me Sensible Mortification to see this State eclipsed by any other in its Forwardness & Alacrity to repel the Enemy. At the same Time all may be assured that Considering the Season & other Circumstances nothing but the most urgent Necessity & apparent Danger shall induce me to put their Zeal & Spirit to the Tryal.

I am with
due Regard &c.

Indorsed,

To the Lieutenants of the countys of Philad^a, Bucks, Chester, and City of Philad^a.

PRES. REED TO CAPT. JAMES MONTGOMERY, 1779.

Sir,

I wrote you this Morning to which I must now refer. This will be delivered to you by Capt. Tucker under whom you are directed to act for 3 Weeks. At the Expiration of the 3 Weeks you are to return within the Capes or keep the Sea as you think best & your Stores will permit—on no Account returning into Port but in Case of the most absolute necessity.

We shall forward all Necessaries to Lewis Town for you—And as a Stroke upon the N. Y. Privateer will redound greatly to your Honor & Interest as well as of the State we trust you & all on board will exert yourselves fully.

Wishing you all
imaginable Success I remain, &c.

June 15th 1779.

Directed,

To Captain James Montgomery.

COUNCIL TO CAPTAIN NICHOLSON, 1779.

Philad^a, June 15, 1779.

Sir,

I am directed by Council to inform you that there are in the Goal of this City twelve men convicted of various crimes, which may be pardoned on their entering into the service of the state and paying some office fees due from them. Should your want of men induce you to send one of your officer to enlist these men there seems to be a certainty of their willingness to enter.

I am

with great respect

your humble servant

T. M., Sec'y.

*Directed,*To Cap^t Nicholson of the Dean Frigate.

COL. HENRY HALLER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Reading, June 15th, 1770.

May it Please your Excellency.

Sir,

It has not been in my Power to obtain the enclosed list concerning the Justices untill yesterday; the reason given me by Mr. Michael Lendemuth why he did not Qualify to the Commission dated 24th April, 1778, as a Justice of the County of Berks, were that he was determined not to except of the Office, but was lately urged and persnaded by some of his neighbours to act, he therefore came to me to take the Oath of Office.

The reason why others have not Qualified I am unacquainted with.

I likewise inclos'd a Copy of a letter of Lieut James Dunlape prisoner of war letter to Mr. William Moore Smith, in order to shew the Connection, this and some others all sealed, were in the possession of Mr. Charles Shoemaker of this Town, when on his way to Philad^a. Those they Carry & on a Correspondence by the assistance of many of the Inhabitance who carry and bring their letters, when I told them this was inconsistant with the duty of a prisoner, the say that by their Parol they were not to correspond with the Enemys of the United States, but had Liberty to Correspond with the Inhabitants.

Question whether unfriendly inhabitants are not Surest Enemies if so. all Correspondence unless under proper Inspection must be Dangerous; Therefore the Carrying of Letters for Prisoners ought by Law be prevented. I also enclosed a Desposition, shewing the reasons why Mr. Wm. Moore Smith was suspected of Carrying Letters for the British Prisoners.

I am Sir,

your Excellency

very hn^d Serv^t

HENRY HALLER.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the Executive Council State of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA, T. M. TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

This minute another deserter from Gen^l Hale's 17th regiment of Light Dragoons has left me, he came off with the man I informed your Excellency of yesterday but not walking so well did not arrive till this morning.

He supposes the 17th regiment to be about 300 strong including 50 or 60 men not mounted, thinks about 12 deserted from the regiment with horses and arms since they left Long Island, when he deserted the army, the gránidiers & infantry excepted lay between Dobbs's ferry & Tarrytown, it is supposed to be 14000, including the troops that returned from Virginia. The grenadiers & infantry went up by water & took a three gun battery at Kings-ferry. All the cavalry supposed 1000, with the army a few left at Kings bridge for expresses excepted. West point was supposed to be the object of the expedition. All the troops that could possibly be spared from the three islands, foreigners both horse & foot included were with the army. While in Jerseys a Corporal & two men deserters from the foreign troops at Rhode Island overtook him.

I take the liberty to assure your Excellency that

I am

with great respect

Sir, your most Obedient Serv^t

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

June 15th, 1779.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 16 June, 1779.

Sir,

Copies of two acts of Congress of the 14th Inst., are herewith enclosed—one recommending to the States to exempt Drivers of Waggons from Militia Duties while in Service—The other for ascertaining their wages.

I have the honor to be
with great Respect
your Excellency's
most Obed^t Servant

JOHN JAY.

Directed,

To His Excellency President Reed.

D. JAMESON & J. RICHLEBACH TO PRES. REED, 1779.

York Town,
June 16th, 1779.

Sir,

Inclosed are several Depositions taken at the request of a considerable number of the inhabitants of this town against John McCallister* Commissary of Issues. The reason they give for being so long in informing is that they did not know till lately that any continental Officer was answerable for his conduct to any person in this State. Mr. McCallister was present when the depositions were taken and allowed to have copies of them. No other steps were taken lest they might interfere with the orders of his superiors or such measures the Council may think proper to take. He had no objections to the Characters of the witnesses but Ebaoh who he said had been dismissed his service for Stealing liquor and getting drunk but several people of credit give him the Character of an honest man.

The depositions of John Ehrman and George Frye he allows to be true and his objections to the other in our opinion are of no great moment. He thinks he has a right to deal in Liquor while he acted as commissary and owns he mixed water with whiskey several times when the casks were near empty to give to workmen, &c.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 27, 31.

We are informed there are two persons in Philadelphia who are acquainted with some misbehaviour of Mr. McCalister, Ensign Mc Calmon a Relation of John Kain of Philadelphia Merchant and one Jacob Durang, a Hair-dresser.

We beg leave to apologize for the bad language of the depositions they were taken amidst a great concourse of people who were so inflamed at the reports of Mr. McCalisters misbehaviour in his office that they insisted to be present while the depositions were taken.

We are Sir,

your most Obedient

Humble Serv^t

DAVID JAMESON,
JACOB EICHELBERGER.

Directed,

To The Honourable Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the Council
in Philadelphia.

GEN. A. ST. CLAIR TO SECY. MATLACK, 1779.

Camp at Smiths Clove,

June 16th, 1779..

Sir,

Your favour of the 11th, came to hand yesterday covering some farther Accounts of Money issued for the Recruiting Services—Our late Movements and since we have been here my want of Health has prevented any thing from being done in that necessary Business, but I hope soon to be able to give it a thorough Examination.

I observed some time ago that Notice was given the publick that the Estates of certain attainted Persons would soon be sold—you will oblige me by letting me know when that of John Potts will be disposed of, that I may take Measures in time for the Purchase of his house which I intend.

I am Sir,

your most obedient Servant

A^r. ST. CLAIR.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq^r.

PRES. REED TO GOV. WM. LIVINGSTON, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, June 17th, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I duly received & thank your Excell^e for your Favour of the 7 Inst.* The French Woman was brought before me, & after making Inquiry of Persons in this City respecting her the result was so unfavourable that I sent her to the State Prison there to remain till the next Exchange of Prisoners by which Time any Intelligence she can carry must be stale & of little Value. Judge Imlay has been so obliging as to give me Information of the Passage of many Persons to New York whom we should by all Means prevent if in our Power but they go from this under Pretence of going to New Jersey & there proceed by the Stages. If it was not too much Trouble to the Magistrates of New Jersey to take some Notice of these Passengers it would have a good Effect. We give but few Papers & to none but those who give Security not to return to this State without Leave first obtained for that Purpose. We see & feel the pernicious Consequences of this Intercourse & were never better satisfied than when from some Proceedings of Congress we discharged ourselves of it altogether. Since we have resumed it, we have don it upon a very confined Scale & find it in all Respects very Troublesome & Disagreeable.

I am with much Respect &

Regard Dear Sir

Your Very Obed. & Hbl. Ser.

Directed,

His Excell^e Gov. Livingston.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

June 17th, 1779.

Sir,

By a prisoner of war released from New York & a deserter from the english army in S. Carolina I have collected the following information. Tho the deserter has been last with me I shall begin with him as I suppose intelligence from that quarter most interesting at present.

John Guarrigues a Corporal in Delanoies 2d battalion came from S. Carolina with a pass from Gen^l Moultrie says he left the british army the first of May, two days after it had entered S. Carolina in number 3500, heard they were afterwards joined by 170 horses soldiers draughted from the army and mounted on horses collected in Georgia 50 Indians & 25 whites disguised as such. The army crossed into S. Carolina about three miles from Curisburgh which,

* See pages 474.

a small part of Americans had just evacuated. There were between 17 and 18 hundred men left in Georgia. The whole of the English troops to the southward consisted of two Battalions of the 71st 2 of Hessians, 2 of Delancies & 1 of York Volunteers, between two and three hundred. All these from New York, the 16th & 64th from Augustine & Brown's rangers, about 120 raised in Georgia, mostly prisoners of War.

He left Charlestown the 13th May when an attack was shortly expected as the enemy were but a small distance and rapidly advancing; the inhabitants & garrison in high spirits when at Georgia town 60 miles from Charlestown, heard the enemy had made an attack and were repulsed with considerable loss, heard from several persons that passed him on the road that a second attack had been made when the enemy were totally defeated and many prisoners were taken. The town was strongly fortified & the works flanked by an armed Vessel in each river.

The clothing for Delancies regiment was taken going to Georgia, the men had therefore been clothed with the old clothes of such reg^t as had received new.

Garrigues is an inhabitant of this town & son of Sam^l Garrigues was in the continental service & taken on York island the day the English landed, continued 12 or 13 weeks a prisoner when he enlisted in hopes of making his escape, attempted it once, was taken & received five hundred lashes.

The person from New York is a sailor & released last friday, says the last return was 512 on board the prison ship, the number rather increasing, tho slowly as the dead & those that entered on board the English vessels nearly kept pace with the arrivals. The Oliver Cromwell was brought in on the 8th the men remaining on board after manning the Ariel privateer, a sloop of 10 or 12 Guns taken by her about 120 of whom 70 were sent on board the Jersey an hospital now converted into a prison ship. The prisoners kept as much as possible from all hopes of freedom in order to induce them to enter, for which purpose some officers were constantly on board endeavouring to entice the men. Was 6 weeks on board, during which time no fleet arrived except that from Virginia, nor, does he recollect any other men of war there in said time but the Reasonable, Rainbow, Delaware, Galatea & Dauphin; Had liberty several times to go on shore to New York, once says five waggons with wounded from the north river about the 8th or 9th but does not exactly remember the day. The inhabitants of Long island seemed very apprehensive of some impending danger but he could not discern of it many of the inhabitants of New York were removing to Long island with their effects.

I have the honour to be with respect

Your Excellencys

Most Obed^t Servant.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

STATE OF THE TROOPS IN THE PENNSYLVANIA LINE, 1779.

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	FIELD.				STAFF.				NOT COMMISSIONED.						Present at the Duty.					Black present.		Black absent.		On Command.		On Purloin.		Total.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
	Colonels.	Lieut. Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Capt. Lieut.	Lieutenants.	Knights.	Chaplains.	Adjutants.	Pay Masters.	Quarter Masters.	Burgesses.	Serjts. Majors.	Qr. Mr. Serjts.	Dr. Majors.	Serjts.	Drums & Fife.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															

The 4th Regt at Schoharry—The 8th at Fort Pitt, & the 11th on the Susquehanna.
 Copy from the last Returns,
 Indorsed,—Read in Council June 25, 1779.
 ALEXDR. SCAMMELL, Adj. Genl.*
 T. M., Sec'y.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 82.

COUNCIL TO CHARLES PETTIT, A. Q. M. G., 1779.

In Council, Philadelphia, June 19, 1779.

Sir,

The Council have received intelligence from several parts of the State which makes it but too evident, that the number of waggons lately demanded by the Quarter Masters cannot by the most strenuous efforts be obtained, owing, chiefly, to the great number of Waggons & horses which have been destroyed and worn out during the War, and the readiness with which a farmer can evade every attempt to compel him into service against his inclination and interest.

The Council conceive it to be their duty to inform the Quarter Master's department of the disappointment which they foresee in this business, and recommend for consideration the plan of allowing a certain sum per barrel for earriage of provisions from place to place, as affording a probability of answering the purpose more effectually, and in the end at a less expence than the mode of impressing is likely to do—and at the same time preventing much real distress, dissatisfaction and complaint among the people.

I am, with great respect,

Your very hm'ble serv^t,

G. B.

To Charles Pettit, Esq^r, A. Q. M. G.

COUNCIL TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

Philadelphia, June 19, 1779.

Gentlemen:

By order of the Council I transmit to you extracts of a letter from Col^l Broadhead of the 5th instant. Also several indian speeches, which there is not time to copy, and must therefore beg you will please to return them after having inspected them or taken copy of them if you think them of consequence.

I am, with great respect,

Your very humble servant,

T. M. Sec^y.

Hnble. Board of War.

FRANCOIS GURNEY TO SEC^y. MATLACK, 1779.

Dear Sir,

There is two large guns that the Enemy have thrown over the Public Wharfe in the Northern Liberties; I take them to be country made twelve pounders; will be much obliged to you to order the

proper persons to have them removed as soon as possible, as they are dangerous to the Bottoms of Vessels landing wood at that Wharf.

I am your most obt. Serv^t,

June 19th, 1779.

FRAN'S GURNEY.

Directed,—Colonel Matlack, Present.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

Gent.;

We received your Favour of this Day—the Anxiety of the Prisoners to remain at Reading does not lessen our Apprehension of farther Difficulties on that Subject. But as we have no Disposition to cross their Inclinations unnecessarily, we will make Inquiry how far Harmony & good Humour may be preserved, & acquaint you with the Result. In the mean Time, they will, of course, remain in their present Quarters. We shall be happy to co-operate with your Hon^d Board on all Occasions, & cannot but express our Satisfaction at the Prospect of harmonizing in all publick Measures.

I am, Gent.,

Your most Obed. Hbl.*

Indorsed,

June 20th. To the Honble. Board of War.

PRES. REED TO COL. BENJ. BLYTHE.

Shippensburg, Cumberland County, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 2^d Inst^t has been duly received. That an Officer or Soldier who has been a Prisoner, & is regularly exchanged, should be exempted from Militia Duty, cannot be admitted on any Principle of Justice, Reason or Policy. In this City, where the Pretences of Exemption, as being in Continental Employ, Deserters from the Enemy, & many others of like kind have been numerous, one uniform & steady Answer has been given. That all the Exemptions were manifest on the Face of the Law, & we can make none other. Having pursued this Line with Firmness, we find our Militia more respectable than ever, & more general Satisfaction given. We are very sorry that the Gentlemen you refer to in your Letter, should make the Duty of the Lieutenant more difficult than it otherwise is. As we must know best what we meant by the Orders we gave, we can truly say they are mistaken in their Construction of them, & should any ill advised Persons commence suits or endeavour to harass Officers in the upright Discharge of their Duty, it will become ours to support & maintain them, & at all

* See page 480.

Events take Care they shall be exposed to no Loss by their publick Services. That Gentlemen in Assembly should advise an Officer to dispense with the Law is so extraordinary that we cannot but hope you have been misinformed; should the Case be so it shows an Inattention to the sacred Obligation of Laws, which we should never have expected from those who are called to the great Business of framing them. The grand Revolution in England in 1688, was chiefly occasioned by an arbitrary Attempt of this kind, which that Nation could never bear, even from a King, & shall we, who live under a Government of Laws, & not of Men, undertake to say what Laws shall be dispensed with, & what are to be obeyed. If the Supreme Executive Branch of Government was to assume that Power in a single Instance, they would become Tyrants; we can never, therefore, countenance in any other Officers of Government Doctrines & Practices which we ourselves abhor. If Laws are inadequate, oppressive, partial or obscure, the Representatives of the People in Assembly should alter, amend, & explain them; but that important Branch of Government would become useless & contemptible if any other Power in the State would dispense with any Law on any Pretence. There have been several Attempts in the Assembly to dismiss the Lieutenants of the Counties as useless & expensive officers; we have observed with satisfaction that the House have thought otherwise, our Opinion being clear & explicit that they are not only useful but essentially necessary, & that the Measure is only a Prelude to laying aside the Militia Law itself, which being a most respectable Bond of Union to the true Whigs, & a great Support to Government, is odious to them, who are disaffected to the Liberty & Independence of America, & disagreeable to those who desire a Change of the present Government. As to the former we can hardly expect that Minds so depraved & corrupt can be amended, but we trust the latter will see their Error. For the History of all Countries, our own Experience, & even the Testimony of our Enemies, all concur to prove that a well regulated Militia, & such we are now very capable of having, is the best Defence against an invading Enemy, & surest Safeguard of publick Liberty. In the present Mode of carrying on the War by distressing our Coast & Frontiers, it is the only Defence we can make, for how can the Continental Army march from one part of America to another to meet the Enemy, who, being Superior at Sea, will transport themselves from the most Distant Part of America with more Ease than our Troops can march from one State to another. That Man therefore, who, under these Circumstances, would weaken the Militia, cannot be a Friend to his Country, be his Pretences otherwise what they may, for in so doing, he co-operates with its Enemies more effectually than if he joined them in Arms. With these sentiments we cannot but applaud your Firmness & Patriotism, & assure you of our Support & sincere Regard. We have received Letters from Col. Caruthers, M^r Sharpe, & M^r Gregory, all desiring to resign.

We are heartly sorry for the Opposition & Discouragement they have met with, but we would wish them to reflect that by resigning they answer the Purposes of their Opponents, & give the most pernicious Encouragement to distress the Officers of Government on all future Occasions. That free Governments, such as ours, should be administered without Opposition, is not to be expected, & if every Officer gives Way when opposed by ambitious, interested, or ignorant Men, we must either give up our Liberty or all kind of Government. We would recommend, & we trust we shall not go too far, if we say our own Experience enables us so to do, a firm, steady, & temperate Line of Conduct, not yielding to factious Clamours on the one Hand, or disregarding Just Representations on the other, & least of all, giving Opposition a Triumph by quitting Office on that Account. The above Gentlemen all set forth as Causes of Resignation some private Reasons, but the Time & Circumstance led us to believe that so general a Resignation could not happen but from some other Reasons. We have not, therefore, accepted their Resignations, nor will it be done till the Gentlemen have had full Opp^o to consider upon it & see the Consequences—if after this, they are resolved upon it, & will themselves gratify their Enemies, we must acquiesce, but we have too good an Opinion of their Integrity & good Sence to believe they will do it at this Time, all Circumstances considered.

I am Sir, with due Regard & Esteem,
Your obed. H^oble Serv.

Indorsed.

1779, June 21st. To Colonel Benjamin Blythe.

LT. COL. ADAM HUBLEY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sanbury, June 21st, 1779.

Sir,

I take the liberty of acquainting you of my arrival at this post, at present every thing about this seems quiet—the refugees here talk of returning again to their farms. I'm in hopes they will be able peaceably to enjoy them.

Inclosed you will receive a Return of my Regiment. The four Independant Companies excepted, (between 70 & 80 in number) they have not yet join'd me, but expect them in a few days. My Regiment at present occupies three posts, viz., Forts Muncey, Jenkins & this place. Duty is exceedingly hard, Those places being posts of the greatest importance in this quarter, and require the strictest attention & alertness.

The generous Provisions made by our Legislature in furnishing us with Stores, &c., in a great measure compensates for the many fatigues and hardships of our poor but worthy soldiers. The first &

only supply yet received is sent to the several posts and nearly exhausted. I much entreat your Excellency will be pleas'd to order another supply for the use of my Regiment. Capt. Bush, the bearer hereof, will wait your orders on that head. Should any officers' cloathing be ready your Excell' will be pleas'd to order on some likewise, my officers (those excepted who have already been furnished) at present are in the greatest want, and some absolutely necessitated to use soldier's cloathes. Their brave and good conduct (acknowledged by your Excell' & the Honbl^e body over which you preside) since their station in this quarter, and their present perseverance induces me, more particularly, to press their wants to your Excellency. Encouraged by your good disposition & great attention (for which you are so emmin^{tly} distinguished) towards the officers & men, I shall rest satisfied that every thing will be done to render the ensuing Campaign (which certainly will be attended in this unhappet & wild country with many & great Difficulties) as easy and comfortable as possible.

I have the Honour to be,

With greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most ob^t hum^e Serv^t,

ADM. HUBLEY, Lt Col., com^d 11.

Directed,

(Public service.)

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the state of Pennsylvania.

MR. HOLKER TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia y^e 22d June, 1779.

Sir,

Mess^{rs} Nesmos & Vaillant, French Merchants, established in this City, having claimed the Privileges of the Flag & having remonstrated to me that the collector of taxes has summon'd them for payment of the militia tax, & has threatn'd to take part of the goods in their Shop in payment thereof,—I cannot refuse to claim in their behalf the Privileges of the Nation, which though not Positively determined by Congress, are necessarily understood; should Congress hereafter Determine that traders from France shall be subject to all the Laws which are binding as Americans, they shall readily comply therewith, & americans in France shall be Reciprocally treated through his Majesty's dominions, on the most equal footing, it Being His Majesty's intention express'd by treaty. In the mean while I Request that your Excellency will please to stay all pursuits against the above Gentlemen

from all Constables, Collectors, &c., till this matter is finally settled. Should your Excellency think it necessary that these Gentlemen should give an obligatory note for payment of their Quota of taxes, I shall see it done to your satisfaction, Providing the payment thereof is defer'd till a final & general arrangement can take place.

I hope your Excellency will favor me with an answer to this Letter, & Believe me with Due Respect,

His most obedient Servant,

HOLKER.*

Indorsed,

[Read in Council, June 23d, 1779. T. M., Sec'y.]

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, June 22d, 1779.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Legislative & Executive powers of the several states, more especially those that are adjacent to Long island and other places in possession of the Enemy to take the most effectual measures to prevent plundering the Inhabitants of such places, and all officers of the army are directed to use their utmost exertions to prevent such practices.

Extract from the Minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Indorsed,

Read in Council, June 26, 1779. T. M., Sec'y.

GEN. ST. CLAIR TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Camp at Smith's Clove, June 23d, 1779.

Sir,

A Board of Officers has been sitting for some Days to adjust and settle the Recruiting Accounts, but they find the accounts of Money advanced for the Recruiting Services, that have been transmitted to me, very imperfect; many of the officers acknowledging the Receipt of large Sums with which they are not there charged. Inclosed is a Memorandum they sent me on that Head. In Order, however, that we might be able to make some Guess, at least, how they stand with the Public,—I have desired them to go on and take the accounts

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII, p. 80; and answer, page 502 of this.

from the officers themselves of what they received. A great Deal of Money, I observe, is charged to officers who have either resigned or are supernumeraries. The Expenditure of that cannot be enquired into here; but, as soon as a Report is made I will transmit to Council a List of those officers, with the sums they are charged with, respectively, that they may be called to Account by them. There is a Lieut. Philip Gibbons of the sixth Regiment, who has received an enormous sum, made few or no Recruits, and the Commanding officer tells me cannot be got to join his Regiment, but is lurking about Philadelphia. It would, perhaps, be well enough to secure him there, unless he settles his Accounts, and then send him on to Camp to be tried. Colonel Nicola, I dare say, can hunt him out.

Now I have mentioned Colonel Nicola, I doubt whether his continuing to recruit for the Line in Philadelphia, will answer any good Purpose, every Man he has yet sent on has deserted, one only excepted. The Bounty is now so large that, if possible, no Man should be engaged that there is not a great probability, at least, that he will continue in the Service from Principle, and that is scarce to be expected amongst the Vagabonds picked up about Philadelphia.

Colonel Craig has requested me to recommend to Council Mr. Peter Cunningham to serve as an Ensign in his Regiment; and a Mr. James Gilchrist has this Day joined the fifth Regiment in that Character. He is a very promising young Man, I beg leave to recommend him, and that his Commission may bear this Date. The Commissions of Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Kinney are not yet come up. Colonel Craig requests me to put you in Mind of them also.

There has been no Movements in the Enemy's Army lately, they continue entrenched on Stony Point on this side the River, and on the opposite shore, without venturing abroad almost at all, and when ever they do they constantly lose Men by Desertion. We are in earnest Expectation to have the News from Carolina confirmed, which I hope you have before Now, tho' it has not yet reached Us.

After a most severe fit of the Gout, which confined me to my bed for a fortnight, I began to hobble about again, and have laid in a Stock of Health and Spirits by it to serve me the rest of the Campaign, and am,

With Esteem & Respect, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

A^c ST. CLAIR.

To His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire.

Indorsed,

Answered July 15th, 79 M^r Broadhead.

PRES. REED TO OFFICERS AT MUD ISLAND, &c., 1779.

Sir,

The Council recollecting that your tour of duty is nearly expired, have ordered a relief. It is with great satisfaction we have observed the alacrity with which you undertook and the fidelity you have shewn in performing this service. For which I beg you, the officers and privates, to accept my sincere thanks, as well as of the Board at which I have the honour to preside.

I am, Sir, with due regard,

Your most obedient

& Very humble Servant,

J. R., President.

Council Chamber, June 23, 1779.

To Officer commanding at Mud Island & at Billingsport.

PRES. REED TO MR. HOLKER, FRENCH CONSUL, 1779.

In Council,

Philada., June 23d, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour of yesterday* I this Day had the Honour to lay before the Council, & tho' there are no express Priviledges stipulated for the Subjects of his most Christian Majesty, the Reason, Justice & Propriety of giving them all proper Indulgence are with us Motives equally forcible. We have therefore considered the Claim of Messrs. Nesmos & Vaillant with the Attention due to it & to your Representation, upon which I beg Leave to observe, That the Militia Law of this State having been made at an early Period of this Contest, did not make any Exceptions, but in favour of Delegates of Congress & of the principal Officers of Government, nevertheless they have been extended to Persons either of publick Character, Mariners, or mere transient Traders. But if they become Resident, as they derive a Protection from the Laws & Government, we apprehend they owe a temporary Submission, & more especially on a Service not only necessary but honourable. If the Gentlemen who are the Subjects of the present Application are those who applied to the President, & have been established here for two Years in Trade, we apprehend the granting their Request will be attended

* See page 499.

with mutual Inconvenience. While they remain here, whatever may be their Professions of Subjection, they withdraw themselves from the Duty they owe their Prince, & if indulged with the Exemption required they would have all the Priviledges without doing any of the Duties of Subjects. If an Inhabitant of this State should reside above 3 or at most 6 Months in any of the Dominions of France, we should be far from desiring any Exemption from a Duty of this kind, & in Case of actual Invasion we should hope any Subject of this State would deem it a Duty to join in repelling the Enemy, as obligatory as if this State was invaded.

For ought appears in the present Case, these Gentlemen may continue here during Life, & by an easy Extension of the Principle, screen themselves from all the Duties & Burthens of Subjects to either Country, a Doctrine which would be pernicious to both. We should therefore from the present Consideration of this Case recommend to these Persons, if they have resided here above 6 Months, which we understand is the usual term in the West Indies, to submit to the Law, & either perform the Service or pay the Fine, & as the Assembly has under Consideration a Bill touching the Priviledges of French Subjects, this Case may very naturally & properly be included. Should an Exemption be generally granted from services of this Nature throughout the United States, Pennsylvania will most readily concur in a general System, but we think it would not be decent or proper for any single State to establish Principles & Regulations which in their Consequences affect all the rest. Upon this Footing, therefore, we beg Leave to rest it, assuring you of our very sincere Respect & Regard.

I have the Honour to be, Sir,

Your Obed. & very Hbbl. Ser.*

MR. HOLKER, FRENCH CONSUL, TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779:

Philadelphia, June the 24th, 1779.

Sir,

I am this minute honor'd with your letter dated in Council y^e 23^d June: It is not necessary for the present to write you many observations I have made on its contents: But I cannot omit Returning you my grateful thanks for y^e attention which you & the Council have been pleased to pay to my previous letter, & to the Representations of Mess^{rs} Nesmos & Vaillant: It is also my duty to add, that I cannot perceive why you should now begin to exact the Militia tax from these French Gentlemen, when you have not extended the

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 30.

effect of the Law to persons, either of *publick character, mariners or or mere transient traders* though these are not excepted by the laws of this State: nor can I see why you do not answer me with Respect to their obligatory note, which I proposed and devised merely to Shew these Gentlemen's good will and my own, as also to Convince you that in the present state of things, it is not of absolute necessity that the Council should enforce the Execution of the Law with which you have thought proper to dispense so far, since the Consequent demands for the tax can be secured to the State: I must moreover declare to you that till I see some stronger motives, I cannot consent that taxes should be collected from french traders, till such time Congress has determined finally on this Matter: nor can I wish that you should put me under the necessity of remonstrating to his Majesty on this Subject, and to his Minister plenipotentiary, & of shewing them the necessity of depriving the inhabitants of the state of Pensilvania of those advantages which the King so liberally extends to the subjects of all his allies, & to those of the other united states of america.

In the mean while you may depend that though french Gentlemen or traders having no Estate or landed property in the State, should be Exempt from the obligation of turning out with the Militia, they are always ready to face the Common Enemy, whenever necessity will require their presence, or they should be properly called out.

In order that your Excellency & the Council should be fully Masters of the Subjects now Before them,—I have the honour of transmitting them a Copy of the Memorial presented me By Mess^{rs} Vaillant & Nesmos, which will fully elucidate their pretensions: should you come to any further resolutions on this account, I Request you'll please to Communicate them to me so as I may transmit the same to his Majesty, and to his Minister plenipotentiary, to the united States to whom I am bound to render an exact account thereof.

I have the honor to Remain
most Respectfully Sir,
your most obedient
humble Servant,
HOLKER.*

Indorsed.

Read in Council June 26, 1779.

T. M. Sec'y.

* See page 499, 502.

COL. BRODHEAD TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Head Quarters, Pittaburgh, June 24, 1779.

Dear Sir,

About a fortnight ago, three Men which I had sent to reconoitre the Seneca Country, returned from Venango, being chased by a number of Warrioss who were coming down the River in Canoes; they continued the pursuit untill they came to this side Kittanning, and the White Men narrowly escaped. A few Days after they returned, Captain Brady, with twenty white Men and a young Delaware Chief, all well painted, set out towards the Seneca Country, and the Indian warriors proceeded towards the Settlements. They killed a Soldier between Forts Crawford & Hand, & proceeded to Sawesky Settlement, where they killed a Woman & her four Children, & took two Children prisoners. Captⁿ Brady fell in with seven Indians of this party about 15 Miles above Kittanning, where the Indians had chosen an advantageous situation for their Camp. He, however, surrounded them, and attacked at the break of Day. The Indian Captain, a notorious Warrior of the Muncy Nation, was killed on the spot, and several more mortally wounded, but the woods were remarkably thick, and the party could not pursue the villains tracks, after they had stopped their wounds, which they always do as soon as possible after receiving them. Captain Brady, however, retook six horses, the two prisoners,* the Scalps & all their plunder, and took all the Indians Guns, Tomahawks, Match Coats, Mocksins, in fine every thing they had except their Breech Clouts. Capt'n Brady has great Merit, but none has more distinguished Merit in this enterprise than the young Delaware Chief, whose name is Nanowland (or George Wilson.) Before Capt'n Brady returned, Lieut^t Hardin set out with a party of eleven choice Men, and I am certain he will not return without Scalps or prisoners from the Seneca Country.

Lieut^t Col^l Bayard, with 120 Rank & file, is now employed in Erecting a Stockade Fort at Kittanning, which will effectually secure the Frontiers of Westmoreland & Bedford Counties, provided Scouts are employed according to my Directions.

The Mohickins & Shawnee have sent me a string of White Wampum and a Speech, requesting me to take pity on them and suffer them to enjoy the Blessings of peace. I believe I have frightened them by bringing over to our Interest their chief allies the Hurons, Iewas, Chepwas, & Pootiotomics. By the inclosed Letters & Speeches your Excellency will discover the change, and if I had but a small quantity of Indian Goods, I would make them Humble the Mingoes & capture many of the English, but unfortunately I am not in possession of a single Article to pay them with.

* These two children are (said to be) now living; one in Westmoreland Co., the other in Butler. L. C. Draper has statements from them.

I have now a considerable quantity of Provisions, & could make a successful Campaign up the Alleghany, but I am not at Liberty to do it.

It would give me pleasure to know what reward might safely be offered for Indian Scalps.

The wicked Waggoners & pack horse drivers have destroyed at least one sixth of our Spirits, &c. In future it had better be cased.

I have the Honor to be,
with the most Sincere regard & Esteem,
Your Excellencies most Obedt &
most H'ble Servt,

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

His Excell'y Gov^r Reed.

P. S.

A small present from Congress or from our State to my young Delaware Hero would be properly bestowed. His Excellency the Commander being now at a very great distance from Congress, I shall be much obliged to you for making them acquainted with the Contents of your Packet.

CAPT. JOHN MCCULLOH TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

I Rec'd your favour of yesterday's date, and I am exceedingly happy to find that my endeavours has met with your Excellency's and the Hon^{le} Council's approbation. I have presented your thanks to the Officers and men I have the honour to Command, which they rec'd with the warmest glow of gratitude, not only on account of your goodness contained in your last, but also for the strict attention you have paid to things pertaining to our Comfort and Satisfaction, which have even exceeded our most sanguine hope, the Greatfull Remembrance of which I assure you will not easily be defaced, for which I with the Officers and men under my command pray your Excellency and the Hon^{le} Council to receive our warmest and unfeigned thanks, and

I am, Sir, with the greatest Respect,
Your most obedient & very humble Sarvent,

JOHN M'CULLOH,

Capt. Com'g at Billingsport.

Billingsport, June 24, 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 24th June, 1779.

Sir,

Herewith enclosed you will receive a Copy of an Act of Congress of the 22nd Inst., on the Subject of plundering The Inhabitants of Places in the Enemy's Possession.

I have the honor to be,

With great Respect,

Your Excellency's

Most Obed^t Servant,JOHN JAY, Presid^t.

His Excellency, President Reed.

Indorsement.

Read in Council June 26, 1779.

T. M., Sec'y.

D. BARTREM GALBRAITH TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Donegal, 24th June, 1779.

May it Please your Excellency,

On the 21st Inst I rec^d a letter from Col^o Greenewalt, who superintends at Lebanon, for a Continuance thereof, as there was no probability of the Stores being removed from that place; & from the mind of Council when I was last in Philad^a, thro' the expectation of the board of Warr renewing their orders for the express removal of the Stores at that place before this time, wrote him for Answer, that I was not Authorized by Council for the Continuance of a Guard at that post any longer, therefore expected that every endavour should be made use of for their removal—this I rec^d another from Col^o Greenewalt to the Same effect, as also one from Col^o Flower, Com^r Gen^l of Mil'y Stores, (which I herewith transmit you,) in a Style of Language not very agreeable; however, I have answered him, & the Copy of which is also sent, that you might be furnished with a true State of the matter should any thing on that Subject come in course. In answer to the former, I called on the eighth Class of the Lebanon Militia, (being on the spot) least any thing should happen untill your further Pleasure in that matter may be known, which I expect as soon as Convenient.

On my return from Philada^a, at Lanc^r by Express I ordered a Subaltern & 18 men to Coxes-town, (from the Lebanon Guards) as a Guard for the Stores there; their time also expired the 20th Inst. I could wish with all my heart, that a Number of men necessary for Guards at these different posts, were provided as standing troops; for under the militia Law it is Impracticable to furnish Guards & do equal justice to the people—notwithstanding, Substitutes are not allowed of by a late Supplement to the Militia Law, there is hardly any other on those Guards; the policy of the near to where Stores are placed, they lay out evry schame possible for performing their tower of duty there, as the can procure a Substitute for that duty much lower than for one to goe into the field. A Number of People amongst themselves say a Militia Law is good & necessary, yet our opinion is the meaning of Militia Laws are, that when our State is invaded our duty is to turn out, but those Guards at so many Various places are oppressive. I should not have ventured to put this in Letters to you even on hearing it, only to Show you the uneasyness & hardship the People look on it to be to them in their Situation as Farmers; perhaps not more than one man with a Woman & five or Six Small Children on a Plantation, if they goe two months, perhaps loose their Croop, on which their family's livelihood depend, or pay one hundred pounds; & say they would not regard it, were it to repel the enemie, but to run those risques to guard a few Stores they look on it hard. I have not as yet been able to send off the men for Bedford, but will call on untill I can raise them.

I am your Excellency's

most obed^t Huble. Ser^t,

BARTREM GALBRAITH,

Lieu^t for Lancaster County.

Directed.—On public Service.

To His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq^r, Presid^t of the State of Pennsylvania.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War-Office, 25th June, 1779.

Sir,

The commissary of military stores has informed me, that M^r Hubly, who has at present the superintendence of the magazine at Lancaster does not incline to take charge of the ammunition removing from Lebanon to that place; and that he alledges he cannot deliver up the key of the magazine to any person without an order from

Council. The board have therefore directed me to request you would grant an order on M^r Hubly for the delivery of the key to such person as they shall appoint to receive it.

As the board wish to avoid any delay in this matter, they would conceive themselves obliged by an answer to this application as speedily as Council can with propriety determine on it.

I have the honour to be,

with high respect,

Your Excellency's

most ob. ser.,

P. SCULL, Secr'y.*

Directed.—On publick service.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

L. NICOLA, T. M., TO PRES. REED 1779.

Sir,

Two deserters from the 17th inform me they left Kingsferry this day week when all the baggage was embarked in order to proceed up the river to West point. The army supposed between nine and ten thousand strong, the company they belonged to 45 including non-commissioned officers, it was the strongest in the regiment but their regiment was looked on as the weakest on this side the river. A strong work at stony point with four twenty four pounders and three long twelve pounders.

The troops this side the river were the 17th 63d 64th and about 50 Yangers. Two vessels of 64 guns each, two row gallies, some bomb vessels & above 30 transports in the river.

General Clinton went to New York but is returned on the east side of the river two block houses have been erected, desertion very great.

Permit me to subscribe myself with respect,

Your Excellencies

most Obedient Servant,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

June 25th, 1779.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 82.

MR. HOLKER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, y^e 25th June, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honor of inclosing you a Letter for yourself & Council, in which I strictly adhere to the line of my duty; I cannot however not seize this opportunity of informing you that was you to Insist upon enforcing the measures which It seems that Council means to support, they would necessarily involve both nations into difficulties to which you have not perhaps so far attended & which I shall readily explain to you whenever you'll think proper, I should be sorry that these consequences should take place, on account of the individuals whom it may Concern, on account of the difficulties which might arise to representatives of this State & of my nation, on account also of the Respect I have allways bore to your Excellency's Character, & Person. I therefore desire you would not hurry matters, before next assembly or rather before Congress can settle this important subject, more especially permit to say because *the assembly have not under Consideration a Bill touching the Privileges of French Subjects*, But merely Respecting the Jurisdiction of the Consul over french Seamen, and the means to Enforce the same.

I am Sir, most Respectfully,

your Excellency's most Obedient

& humble Servant,

HOLKER.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

Indorsed,

Read in Council, June 26, 1779.

T. M. Sec'y.

LT. SAMUEL HUNTER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Fort Augusta, 26th June, 1779.

Sir,

Your favour of y^e 2d Inst I Received by Mr. Martin and I am sorry to acquaint you it was not in my power to send any of the Ranging Company to assist in Guarding the stores up here from Estherton, as what few men Capt. Kemplen had under his command was stationed at Bosleys mills on Chilisquake, and as for the Militia they could not be call'd uppon at that time as the County was Quite drained of men by the Boat service, and the few spirited men that Remained had charge enough to Guard the Women & Childer at the different little posts they were assembled at, untill such times as part of the Army marches from Wyoming and then I hope there will be no Danger.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 82, 85, 87.

I wrote to General Hand that I had Orders from your Excellency in giving all the aid and assistance possible by the militia of this County in forwarding the Stores to Wyoming, and giving him several Reasons for not complying with your instructions desired he might acquaint Major General Sullivan how this County was distressed and any thing in our power for y^e good of the Service he might Relay upon.

All the Militia I could Collect Exclusive of what was at Fort freeland & General Potters, was about thirty, which I ordered to stay at Sunburry to Guard the Stores there, untill the Continental troops Returned from Wyoming. I Rec^d an answer from General Hand, and he makes mention to me it gave him pain to demand one Hundred and fifty men of us, and he was certain I could not comply with the Requisition at the time he wrote me, and hopes it will be in his Power to spare our militia the next time the Boats goes up.

The medicines is come safe to hand which you mentioned to me in your letter of y^e 5th of last month,* but no case of Surgeons instruments, as Mr. Jennings surgeon to Col. Hartleys Regiment acquainted me he never Received any for the Militia to be put under my care this I thought proper to acquaint you off, as Doctor Hutobison should have told Doctor Jennings there was no instruments to be had at that time.

The men we had enlisted for two months their times is Expired, and according to agreement they look to the magistrates for their pay and as it was not in their power to have it Collected in time, they made application to me to lend them as much as would pay of those three Companys, Capt. Hambright mentioned to me he was of Opinion it would be allowed by Council, this I would be desirous to know, I am certain they well deserve their pay for they were of infinit service to this County.

As the militia makes application to me for Ammunition at times when they are ordered out in their tower of Duty, and as I have none under my Imediat Command but must apply to the Commanding Officer of the Continental Troops thats stationed here, I would be desirous you would Order me two Hundred w^t of Powder and Eight Hundred w^t of lead for the use of the County to be given out as necessity Requires at times.

Inclosed I send Capt. Thomas Kemplens muster Roll, and am afraid we will not get the Company made up in any Reasonable time in the situation we are in at present, Kemplen & his men is gon to Wyoming with the last Escort.

I am y^r Excellencys

most Obd^t and

Very Humb^l Serv^t,

SAM. HUNTER, Lieu^t N. C.

N. B. I Rec^d a letter from Major General Sullivan inclosing an Extract of your letter dated y^e 3d Inst,† to order up the Ranging

* Page 375.

† Page 457.

Company Raised for the Defense of this County to Wyoming, as he finds his numbers Rather short of what he Expected, Col. Hubleys Regiment marches Immediately which leaves Fort Muncy & Fort Jenkins Vacant at this Critical time when its out of my Power to man them the time of Harvest with the militia of this County.

S. H.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philadelphia.

PREM. REED TO CAPT. THOMAS CLUGGAGE, 1779.

Philad^a, June 26, 1779.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 11th Inst has been duly receiv'd & Mr Donally is appointed your 2d Lieutenant agreeable to your Desire. When Mr Piper & yourself have fixed upon the 1st Lieutenant and made him known to us we shall readily appoint him—We were apprehensive that the Encouragement given to the Boat Service & other inferior Branches of the Susquehanna Expedition would injure the recruiting but as it eventually promotes the Same Object viz., the Safety of the Frontiers we can submit to it with more Chearfulness. Tho we hope that you will be able to recruit near your Complement, tho' you may not fully reach it. It would have been very agreeable to us to have been informed of the exact State of the Company, & we request you will do it as soon as possible—Mr Carson at Carlisle has undertook the Supply of the Articles promised in the recruiting Instructions & has actually supplied Capt. Irwins Com^y We have forwarded some Money to him for this Purpose & shall supply him with more when necessary we would therefore have you apply to him. The favourable Reports received on all Hands from The Westward of the Disposition of the Savages since the Capture of Gov. Hamilton give us Hopes that you may be able to co-operate with Gen. Sullivan who is very anxious to have a Body of good Woodsmen. There will not only be an Opp^y of acquiring more Honour than their remaining merely defensive, but in such Case it would be in our Power to Send you Supplies from this City which the scattered State of the Troops & Difficulty of Carriage now in a great Measure prevents.

We shall forward a Supply of Money by the first safe Opp^y and if any one is coming down you will do well to direct him to wait on us for this Purpose.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. &

very Hbbl Serv^t,

JOS. REED.

Directed,

To Capt. Thomas Cluggage of Bedford County.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 26 June, 1779.

Sir,

Recollecting that the papers in the Case of M'Callaster with a copy of the Resolution of Congress on that subject had not been delivered to me, I sent to the Secretarys Office for them, and received for answer that one of the Clerks had contrary to the standing order of the Secretary, sent them to your Excellency. I mention this circumstance to account for your not having received them in the usual way.

And have the honor to be

with great Respect

Your Excellencies

most obedient Servant,

JOHN JAY.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of Pennsylvania.

PRES. REED TO MR. HOLKER, FRENCH CONSUL, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, June 26th, 1779.

Sir,

I was favoured this morning with your farther representation* in behalf of Messieurs Nemos and Valliant. Having the most favourable sentiments towards every individual of the Nation which you represent, we shall with great satisfaction receive any information or light you may please to give us on the subject; and we trust that upon this as upon all other occasions you will find the fullest disposition to grant not only Justice but every reasonable indulgence to the subjects of a Nation so highly and justly respected. We would wish to convey this Idea in a manner the most likely to make an impression, because from the terms in which you are pleased to enforce the claim of Mess^{rs} Nemos and Valliant we fear our intentions and desires are not fully understood.

Our confidence in & high Esteem of the Minister, make it quite acceptable to us that you should communicate the matter to him, and in the mean time we shall have no objection to a delay of the procedure against Mess^{rs} Nemos and Valliant, & have given directions accordingly.

* See page 519.

The Council sit from ten to two o'clock daily, but will with pleasure meet at any other time convenient to you, to hear any representation you may think proper farther to make.

I have the honor to be Sir,

your obedient & very humble servant.

PRES. REED TO COL. WM. HENRY, 1779.

Philad^a, June 26th, 1779.

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency the President to inform you that a representation has been made to Council by the Consul of France in behalf of Nemos and Valliant, and it is thought proper to delay your further proceeding in their case until it can be maturely considered.

I am respectfully

your very humble servant,

T. MATLACK, Secy.

Directed,

To Col. W^m Henry, L, of Philad^a.

PRES. REED TO COL. RICHARD BUTLER, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, June 27th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 14 Inst.* has been duly received & attended to. We are very sensible of the Difficulties under which the Families of many Soldiers & indeed Officers labour in these Times of Extravagance & Extortion. But as Grants of Rations in any one Case would lay a Foundation for the like in all, we fear it is impracticable to make any Alteration at present. The Rations are not under the Control & Direction of any Authority but Congress, & as such Indulgences would extend to all the States & prove a very heavy Burthen, we doubt whether it would be acceded to. In Case of Families as large as that of the Serjeant mentioned in yours it would be more for the Interest of the publick to discharge the Man:

* See page 482.

than support him & Family too—but we think you should be cautious of discharging a Man upon this Ground without the Concurrence of the General, as it may fix a Rule or at least lay a Foundation for the like Demand in the Troops of other States. We shall at all Times be glad to do any Thing in our Power for the Relief of the Troops, & when it depends upon the Authority of the State we trust you will never find us backward, as we would on all Occasions wish to give them the most Solid Proofs of our Affection & Esteem.—With many good wishes & much Regard

I remain Sir,

your most obed. H^{ble} Serv:

J. R.

Directed,

Col. R. Butler, at Camp.

PRESIDENT REED TO LT. COL. ALEX. BROWN, 1779.

In Council,

Philada., June 27th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Your Representation of the 26 May has been laid before the Hon^d Council, and it is a Satisfaction to us to learn that the Non compliance with our Order did not proceed from any other Cause than Necessity. Having been appointed by the good People of this State to administer its Government, we do not consider any Disobedience or Neglect of Authority as an Injury to us in a private Capacity—those who appoint us expect our Exertions for the publick Welfare, if they are defeated thro Necessity, Accident or Design we have discharged our Duty & a good Conscience the Consequences must rest with those by whose Means such Exertions failed of their due effect.

In the present Case your Destination was fixed in Concert with his Excell^{ty} Gen. Washington who had given such Orders to a Body of Troops under his Command to support the Frontiers of Northumberland as in his Judgment made it quite unnecessary & even improper to send any Militia into that Quarter. Whereas the Counties of Westmoreland & Bedford not having such a Support it becomes necessary to send them some Assistance but I am sorry to observe that an almost general Disappointm^t has taken Place. It is much to be wished that a proper Confidence should allways subsist between those who are called to plan & those who are to execute because in some Cases it being improper to disclose military Designs, they must fail for Want of the necessary Secrecy.

We could have wished on the present Occasion that the Necessity,

of the Case & its Circumstances had been made known to us so that we might have made Provision therefor—for as the undertaking to judge & determine when our Orders may or may not be obeyed must in a little Time render the Militia entirely useless, we would chuse to save ourselves the Trouble of giving out Orders & the Mortification of finding they were not complied with.

With Respect to countermanding the Call of the 3^d Class & exempting you from a Tour of Duty save on your own Frontiers you may be assured that nothing short of the most pungent & unavoidable Necessity will induce us to give any farther Orders on this Subject. If such a unavoidable Necessity should arise our Duty will demand it of us to give the Order & a like Principle would we trust induce you to obey it. General Potter's sentiment have their due Weight with us, but had he been informed of the Principles on which these Orders were given & the Direction of Gen. Washington he would probably have thought differently.

We are happy to find the Appearances of Danger on the Frontiers had very much subsided we trust it is a happy Prelude to more permanent Security & that you will no more be distressed with these Apprehensions & Difficulties which have attended you for some Time past. With these Wishes & due Regard

I am Gent.

Your Obed. Hbbl. Ser.

Directed,

To Lieut. Col. Alexander Brown & other Officers of the 5th Battalion of Militia Cumberland County.

JOHN HACKENWALDER TO COL. BROADFORD, 1779.

Coochocking, May 28th, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to inform you, that by John Monture, who came here from the Wyandott Town, we are assured that the Wyandotts are ready to make peace with the States, and on their way to Pittsburgh already; they rejoiced greatly when your speech was delivered to them, and had waited a long time for something from the Americans themselves. When Monture came away, they had yet three days to Council. The first they were to make out how many of them were to go to the Council at Pittsburgh; The second Day they were to get speeches ready to the Tawas & Chebaways that they also might go with them; and the third day they were to speak to their Fathers at Detroit, and to tell them now you have Cheated us long enough, we desire, therefore, tell us the truth and keep our eyes

Shut no longer; and then to tell him, now we are going to shake hands with the Virginians; we are therefore their friends already. John Monture particularly desires me to inform you of the following:—That Clarke had taken a Fort lately, in which he got Goven^r Hamilton, Hays & Desyoun^g, three worthless fellows, Prisoners. The Commanding lasted from the middle of the day 'till night, & began next morning again, after which the Governor surrendered, without the loss of one Man on either side. Mr Clarke treated the Prisoners very well, and the report of his killing so many Prisoners is false, and only reported that the Indians shall believe that the Virginians are ill disposed towards them all. That further, in the letters which Mr Clarke had sent to Kentuckia, but which were taken by some Warriors, he, Mr Clarke, wrote to the People there, that he had the Governor, and would deliver him to the Hands of the Wooman who had lost their Husbands by his wickedness in sending the savages to kill them: they then might do with him as they pleased,—further, that the English had built a very strong Fort at Detroit and that he, Monture, thinks it will be very hard taking without Bombshells, tho' he says he does not know but what they will leave the Fort immediately when they see an Army Coming.—That further, there were two Vessels posted out to watch for the American Army, the one up & down by Guyahaga to Presqueux, and the other at the Mouth of Tweetwell or Miami River; that the Shawanese, Mingoes & Wyondehatagang were to go with Capt. Bird & Ten English soldiers to attack & take Fort Lawrens; that he did not know the number, but the Cap^t said he would have 3 or 4 hundred Men; but Monture thinks there will be scarce half that number; no Wyondotts will be along, & as the Cap^t knows this, he says he does not want them, for they were all turned Rebels. Bird told Monture that he would fire his Swivels, for now we know for Certain they are but small swivels, on sixty yds. from the fort, & knock it down in a Hurry; to which Monture replied, he would do the Virginians a great service if he would go that near. He intends to shoot double headed shot which he makes himself. The Merchants & others in Detroit desired Monture to do all he Could that the Cap^t might be taken; & he thinks it Could be easily done. When the Wyondotts were a Councelling near Detroit, the Comm^r sent a file of Men to take Monture Prisoner, because, as they said, he was turning the Wyandotts to become Rebels; the Men were nine days after him, but Could not get him. That Tho^s M^cCarty is gone, he thinks, down Sciota with 40 Men to Cross Ohio, to war a few days. After Monture left Detroit, they had great rejoicing there, the Cannon being hearing firing. That 160 Men came lately from Niagara to Detroit, 100 of them Regulars & 60 Prisoners, who were bought of the Indians & made soldiers off; that by a late information of a merchant who Came from Quebec to Detroit, it appears that there has not betwen them two places been above 800 Soldiers.—This far John Monture to you. I understand by Monture, that after this

Battle at Fort Lawrens is over, the Mingoes will all go home to their own Country, & then the six nations will fall on the Wyandotts; he says nothing is surer than this; but they, the Wyandotts, say, if they have the Americans to our friends, they will Certainly help us to fight them if they come.

Monture likewise tells me, that, perhaps, when the Shawnese see what the Wyandotts are about, and that they are a going to treat at Fort Pitt, they may alter their minds & not go along against Fort Lawrens; but he says this is uncertain, & a great many will go; if ever they turne back, he wishes that you may be ready for them.

The letter from the Wyandott Chief, Bawbee, to you, was wrote by a Prisoner for them.—Monture tells Me, that at that time when he was Called to Come to Pittsburgh, it was impossible for him to go, & would have cost him his life; but if he had Rec^d Mr Dodge's letter a few days sooner much mischief might have been prevented.

Excuse, Sir, this letter not being wrote in a proper manner; 'tis impossible for me at this time, I having so much to do, & Could not remember every thing directly, therefore all is meant together. Simon Girty acts wickedly, and does all he can against you.

I am, with great respect, your
very hum^l Serv^t,

JOHN HACKENWALDER.

P. S. Paper is so scarce with me that I hardly can write another letter.

Dear Sir,

I was obliged to open my letter again, as John Monture Informs me as a certain fact, that Legoneir and all this side of the Lawrel hill will be attacked by the six Nations, and Buttler at the head of them with two hundred Rangers; the Private news of this runs thus :— We have found out a piece of ground where no disturbance has been made, where there is Provision and every thing plenty; the farmers there are busy at their farms, and suspect nothing; we will now, as soon as the strawberrys are ripe, fall in that Country all at once; then let the Virginians try to Carry on a Campaigne against us. This is Guyashuta his private speech to the Mingoes. Monture desires you to be ready for them, and not Consider this as a false report, for he says it is a fact.

Indorsed.

From John Hackenwalder to Colonel Broadford, read June 24.

(Copy.)

JOHN HAMBRIGHT TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Lancaster, June 28th, 1779.

Sir,

I beg leave to inform Your Excellency that I arrived here last Fryday, but having received a hurt in my Journey am not able immediately to proceed and give my attendance with the Letters and Papers in my Care. As soon as I shall be able I will attend and give such further information as may be required or not fully explained by the Letters and Papers which I now forward herewith—In the mean Time I would recommend to Your Attention the Remonstrance and Petition of the Magistrates of Northumberland on the Appointment of another Prothonotary for that County: As to the Remonstrance of the Magistrates on the subject of the three Companies raised for immediate defence, and the monies required for their pay, it will also require the immediate attention of Council, and thereupon would suggest that the money sent to Col. Hunter to raise a Company of Nine Months Men might be applied for that purpose—As Col. Hunter has not been able to get more than a Captain and twelve Recruits for that service—The wages and Service of the Boatmen lately raised and still raising has prevented the Col. to do any more nor do I believe he will be able to go on with that business any further. Among the Papers will Appear an Opinion of Lawyers North and Chambers—as the matter therein referred to was chiefly under my Attention it will require my Personal attendance at Council to relate the infamous Neglect & conduct of the Sheriff in the Escape of the Prisoners.

I beg my Compliments to the Board and am
Your Excellency's
most Obed^t Serv^t,
JOHN HAMBRIGHT.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

A Deserter is just arrived but so stupid that little satisfactory can be got from him, yet such as it is I think proper to inform your Excellency thereof as sometimes a trifle from one informant will help to elucidate the reports of some other.

He belonged to the 64th & left this side of the river at Kings ferry the day after the two men whose examination I had the honour to send you last, corroborates the account of the enemies having

embarked their baggage but says the men varied in their conjectures about their destination, some suppose they are to proceed to West point : others to New London, None of the troops were yet embarked. Seven or eight guns & 3 mortars mounted on the work at rocky point, the defence of which it is supposed will be committed to the Hessians. Says he believes the 64th is not above 150 strong exclusive of grenadiers & infantry, yet when asked about the companies says the strongest was near 50 & the weakest about 30, this is not agreeable to the custom of the English Army in my time, as when ever there was any material difference between the companies they generally squared them by adding to the weak & taking from the strong. Says there were only two frigates in the river.

I am with respect

Your Excellencies

Most Humble & obed^t Serv^t :

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Directed.

To His Excellency Joseph Reed President of the State.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, 28 June, 1779.

Resolved,

That it be earnestly recommended to the several States, by the most Speedy and vigorous efforts, to fill up their respective battalions agreeable to the Resolution of Congress of the ninth day of March last, That nothing may be wanting on their part to render the present Campaign glorious and decisive.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

REV. MR. GRUBE TO COL. BRODHEAD, 1779.

Col. Brodhead,

Sir,

I only inform you, when we were in the Forks of our Road, one of the Indians which was in our Company and went before, was fired upon by a White man, who lay in Ambuscade behind a great log about 12 Yards off the Road, but happily miss'd him; one of our Indians who was near ran up to him—another white man raised his Gun to shoot him, but a great many of the Company near him and a great noise making, they run off; there was 8 White men. We went on our Road, and no body any search after them—they left a Gun-Cap, a Rammer, & a Hatchet behind them. We let you know this for that Reason, lest there should be bad stories risen of our People. We are all well.

I am, Sir, your humble Servant,

B. AD. GRUBE.

June 28th. 3 Mile beyond little Beaver Creek.

CAPT. JAMES MONTGOMERY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Ship Genl. Green, off of Lewis town,

June 29th, 1779.

I had a very Busy Week of it betwixt our Capes and New York, tho' unsuccessful; on Friday last Chased a Privateer Cloas in With Sandey Heek, and on Saturday Morning fell in with a British Cruiser and was oblig'd to Run in turn, and on Sunday Evening Goot in to our Capes, being very foggy, anchor'd; Next Morning, Saw two Large Sail lying within me, hove out our Signall, and found them to be the Boston and Confedriey; the fog Clearing more a Way saw a large Ship standing Down the Bay. She Proove to be the Deane. We are all well informed there is three British frigates Cruising off; this morning at day Break heard them fire three Guns, but being Calm Cannot get out to them. I hoop the Breeze will shortly spring up, and make No Doubt but wee shall shortly Give a Good acc^t of them. I have Ingaged to Cruise some time with them, which I hoop will be Pleasing to your Excellency. Cap^t Nicholson, as Eldest Continental Cap^t Commands our little fleet.

I Remain your Excellencies.

Humble Serv^t, &c.,

JAMES MONTGOMERY.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 29th June, 1779.

Sir,

I have the Honor of transmitting to your Excellency, Copies of two Acts of Congress of the 28th Inst. The one was entered into in consequence of a Letter received by Congress from General Washington of the 11th Inst., (copy of an Extract from which is also enclosed,) and earnestly recommends to the several States to fill up their respective Battalions by the most speedy and vigorous Efforts, agreeable to a former Resolution of Congress on that Subject.*

The Expediency of this measure is so obvious as to preclude the necessity of any Persuasion on my part to urge your Excellency's attention to an object of the first moment to the Freedom and Independence of these States.

The other Resolve directs a Paper from Mr. Holker, communicated to Congress by the Minister of France, respecting Francois Fleury, carried by force on Board the armed Ship General Greene, to be transmitted to your Excellency and the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, which Paper is accordingly herewith transmitted.

I have the Honor to be,

With great Respect,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient and

Humble Servant,

JOHN JAY, President.

His Excellency President Reed.

PRES. REED TO BARTREM GALBRAITH, 1779.

In Council,

Philada., June 30th, 1779.

Sir,

Your favour of the twenty fourth instant† has been received & laid before the Council. After having, as early as last March, given notice to the Continental Officers that it would be necessary to remove the stores from Lebanon and discontinue the guard, the same being again repeated about six weeks ago, we cannot but consider Colonel Flowers' letter as extraordinary for its matter, as its manner.

* See page 520.

† See page 507.

The demand of Waggon's was made by the Board of War, but upon our representing to those Gentlemen the difficulties and consequences, they retracted it and concluded on this occasion to hire teams, so that Mr. Bailey is not only excusable, but has acted very properly in omitting to call them. It is our direction to you not to furnish any more guards from the Militia without our special order.

We have found the ruinous consequences of them to the Militia this spring when they were called to go to the frontiers, then the difference of the duty was so manifest that it ended in confusion, and finally in a total neglect of our orders, & the frontiers left to themselves. At this season of the year more especially, when the harvest fields call for every hand, it is a publick loss to take off such a number of people to such a service. We would wish you on all occasions to treat the Gentlemen in the Continental service with respect & attention while their behaviour is correspondent, as harmony and good humor greatly tend to the dispatch of business and promotion of public service.

But we do not expect or desire you to receive any insults from any, even the greatest of them, and you may depend upon it that we shall ever esteem it our indispensable duty to support and assist every officer in the faithful discharge of his duty.

As to the calling out the militia for the frontiers, we would wish you to delay it at least for the harvest, as our accounts from them are more favourable than formerly, and perhaps by that time there may be less necessity for the measure.

With due respect, I remain Sir,

Your most obedient & very humble servant,

J. REED, President.

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M., TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Two sailors inform me they escaped from New York last Sunday evening; that they were told by some of the people that worked on board the same vessel, that 44 prisoners were just brought in, some wounded, but that the rebels had worsted the king's troops.

Capt^a Burgess, who came off with the above two men, told me it was said in New York that West Point was invested.

I am, with respect,

Your Excellencies most obed^t serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

June 30, 1779. 7 o'clock, P. M.

JOHN HACKENWELDER TO COL. BRODHEAD, 1779.

Coochoeking, June the 30th, 1779.

D^r Sir,

Although I am convinced that you have always been very carefull with my Letters, so that neither I nor others therein mentioned have had any reason to apprehend any thing from what was mentioned therein, yet in particular I must request of you this time to consider these two letters as a piece of secrecy, and particularly the name of the Gentleman who favours you with this Intelligence—M^r M'Cormick who came here last night in his own private Business has mentioned several matters in a letter I wrote for him to, and as I have been acquainted with him this five years, and know him to be a true friend to the States, Cannot otherwise than Credit the Intelligence he has given you, I have conversed with him several times about what he mentions to you Concerning the Wyondotts perswading him to believe that they did not care to make him acquainted with their understanding for fear of the English and others but this he denies, saying that all the Wyandotts know him and that if they had any notion of going to Treat for Peace with the Americans one or the other would have spoken to him about it however he says further should some of them from over the Lake go to a treaty to Fort Pitt, tis to no purpose and only a piece of deceit, without you was to take some of their principals as hostages and then it would be well enough but he thinks could you but march two Days beyond Fort Lawrence towards them there would be speeches enough carried from them to you for peace. I shall mention yet something unto you from the Wyondotts, but first mean to inform you of the reason that Capt. Bird was sent from Detroit to attack Fort Lawrence and in the whole of his behaviour it will be plainly seen that he is not entirely without humanity—Simon Girty after coming into Detroit went Immediately to the Commandant informing him that he had 800 Warriors ready at his Command who had determined to attack and take Fort Lawrence that all their request was that an English Captain might be sent with them to see how they would behave this then was immediately agreed to and Capt. Bird sent off to go with them likewise to take 4000^l worth of goods with him for these Warriors after all had been done according to Orders and the goods given unto the Indians he was told that none of all the Wyandotts would go with him against Fort Lawrence but that they were about to Murder a poor prisoner which they had in their possession, the Capt. on hearing this did all that was in his power to save the poor man, begging and praying their head men to save his life, and frequently offering 400 Dollars for him on the spot, and indeed was about to offer 1000 Dollars of which the above mentioned Gentleman agreed to pay down 400 out of his store Immediately, but after finding all to no purpose

went to the man told him that he could do nothing that if (he) Cap^t was in his place he would pick up a gun and defend himself as long as he could, but the Prisoner seeming Pretty easy only told them that the time would come that they would pay dear for all their committed Murders, and then was taken away by the Women and Murdered at a most horrid rate after which the Cap^t took the Body buried it but they (the Wyandotts) diging it out again and sticking the head upon a pole, had to bury it a second time—after all was the Cap^t went up to them they were all assembled and spoke to them in the following manner—You damned Rascals—if it was in my power as it is in the power of the Americans not one of you should live, Nothing would satisfy me more than to see such D—ls as you are all killed, you Cowards is that all you can do to kill a poor Innocent prisoner, you dare not show your faces where an Army is, but there you are busy when you have nothing to fear get away from me never will I have to do with such—as you are, and be Guilty in such a horrid murder as you have Committed at. This and the Cap^t behaviour towards them so long as he was at Sandusky brought the ill will of the Indians upon him, he would not suffer an Indian to come near him for a long time and never would forget it—I am informell that the Cap^t was determined that should he meet with the good luck of having the Fort at Tuscarawas surrendered up to him, to tell all the men there to march under arms to Detroit and that if any Indians should offer to touch any one of the Prisoners to fier upon them and kill all who should come in their way—the Wyandotts I also understand have a vast deal of Wampum in their hands to replace some men who were killed when at War—Simon Girty is for the Mingo Country as soon as he returns—We have heard at different times that the Shawanese are a building a Fort but now we are informed that they are only building their Houses close together so that it may serve them as a Fort, they only wish the Virginians might let them alone till their Corn is of the ground—Had not that have happened at the Shawanese Towns what has happened. I am informed the greatest preparations were making against Fort Lawrence—Alexander M^cKee was coming up with 150 of the Shawanese and the same number were there already but when they got that news they quit this entirely—John Monture is to be looked on as without deceit and the head men of the Wyandotts at Detroit indeed wishes for peace but there are many things in the way, and I understand one is that they are afraid of the English Setting the Chibways and Tawas on them in Consideration of a murder committed 8 or 4 years ago, by the Wyandotts on the Chibways, and which the Governor for the sake of being able to employ all Nations made up himself for that time—but therefore has it also in his power (or the Commandant of Detroit) to bring it to work again—With these words I conclude that the Gentleman Continually declares to me that no peace can be made without a Campaign but then very easy, likewise that if the Campaign is not carried on before the Corn is ripe and out of the way it then

will be of little service for says he they then will take to the woods,
and from thence come and fight you.

I am dear Sir,

your most Ob^t

Hbb^t Servant,

JOHN HACKENWELDER.

Directed,

Col. Brodhead, Commandant.

L. NICOLA, T. M., TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Joseph Hicks, a native of Rhode island state, has called on me for a pass to return home. He says he was a passenger on board a vessel bound to surinam, near which he was taken by an english privateer about the last of March & carried to St Vincents, where he remained about 14 days, was then, with some other prisoners, put on board a store ship bound to St Augustine to assist in navigating her, under promise of liberty when they arrived, touched at St Lucie, where the vessel was detained 'till she could go under convoy. Not being found able or willing to act as a sailor he was sent on shore, went to Antigua, & other islands 'till he found an opportunity to go to St Eustatia. Says he left St Lucie about a month since, when there were there about 30 sail of Kings ships of all sorts, but cannot ascertain the number of line of battle, heard the fleet was very sickly & daily seen some brought on shore to be buried; two died on board the ship he arrived in & several were sick. Heard there were many troops on the island but saw few in the town near the harbour, as they were mostly kept in the mountains, it was said 800 had died, but he saw only two buried while there; about a week before he left the island he saw several embark, said to be destined against Dominica.

When taken he was plundered of every thing but the clothes on his back and thirty half Johannes he had concealed in different parts of his clothes, silver shoe and knee buckles were taken from him. He remained on board the prize at sea and at St Vincents, during the latter period there was a guard of soldiers always on board, he was well treated as to provisions, but while on board the store ship did not receive any allowance for seven days, as he could not work, during which time he subsisted on scraps he received from one or another.

Permit me to assure your Excoellency that I am with respect,

Sir,

your most obed^t servant,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

June 30th, 1779.

COL. JOHN MITCHELL TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending you the Inclosed acc^t of the extraordinary escape & fortitude of an Express coming from General Sullivan to Easton, by which it appears that a number of Indians are in the rear of His Army.

I am with esteem, very respectfully
your Excellencys most Obed^t hum. S^t,

JNO. MITCHELL.

Sunday Morning.

Sullivan's Stores, 1st July, 1779.S^r,

This will inform you of the most singular event that perhaps you ever met with.—One of my Expresses, (Vis^t.) James Cook on his return from Weyoming this day, about the middle of the afternoon, in the Swamp was fired upon by the Indians & Tories—he supposes between Thirty & Fifty Shot. One Shot went thro' his Canteen, one thro' his Saddle, one thro' his Hunting Shirt, one was shot into his Horse. Two Indians or Tories being yet before him, both discharged their Pieces at him, threw down their Firelocks with a determination to Tomahawk him—advanced within Eight Yards of him, at which Time he, with a Bravery peculiar to himself, fired upon them, killed one of them on the spot and wounded the other, notwithstanding he threw his Tomahawk at the Express, missed him, but cut the Horse very deep upon the Shoulder. He got hold of Cook, thought to get him from his Horse, tore his Shirt, which is stained much with the Indian's Blood; the Horse being fretted by his Wound raised upon his hind Feet, Trampled the Indian or Torie under him, who roared terribly, at which time Cook got clear; the other Indians on seeing him get off, raised the Whoop as if all Hell was broke loose. He supposes he rode the Horse afterwards near four Miles, but by the loss of Blood began to Stagger, when he alighted, took off his Saddle & Letters, ran about a Mile on foot, where he fortunately found a stray Continental Horse, which he mounted & rode to this Place.

It is easy to account for his getting the Horse as there are numbers of them astray about the Swamp. M^r Cook's Firelock was loaded with a Bullet & Nine Buck shot, & the Indians being close together when he fired is the reason why the one might be killed and the other Wounded.

From a Perfect knowledge of the mans Sobriety, Integrity and Soldierism, no part of this need be doubted.

I am sir,

your most ob^t Humble serv^t,

(Copy.)

ALEX^r PATTERSON.Directed,—To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, Present.

N. B. The Person mentioned absent in Cap^t Beasley is on board the General Green.
The Person mentioned absent in Cap^t Martin is in Baltimore Jail.
Philadelphia, July 1st, 1779.

LODK SPROGELL, M. M. G. of P.

[illegible]

DAVID JAMESON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

York Town, July 1st, 1779.

Sir,

It appears by inquiring into Mr M^cCalisters conduct that there has been a great misaplication of the publick provision, &c., but as there is a considerable number of people concerned in receiving those things; and some of them whose circumstances might have made them scorn so mean a practice, it may be perhaps difficult to prove it any other way than examining strictly into the matter, particularly what quantity of stores are remaining. There has been for some time such a suspicion of those things, and so much said about them, that they would have been examined into before now, but for my part upon being informed that when the accounts were settled every thing was accounted for, I gave little credit to those reports, but lately I was very much surprised that the accounts should appear so just when it was certain that considerable quantities of the flower and other articles have been misapplied, so much so, that hogs have been bought to sell again by those employed in the magazine and fattened with flower and good Bisquet, at a time when soldiers that were on their march were obliged to draw flower.

As this is certainly true, I cannot but think it strange that a gentleman who signs himself D. Q. G., should write the 22^d of June to Mr Armer, of this town, which letter was received the 26th, informing him that a complaint being lodged against Mr M^cCallister, rendered it necessary a person should be appointed in his place, and as he had been recommended by a member of council, he requested Mr Armer to except of the birth, and the first of next July begin to act as A. C. of Issues. "And I have desired him to give any information you may stand in need of respecting the department," and that "as soon as I receive your answer by the return of the express, shall send your appointment." And likewise write to Mr M^cCalister That as he had always acted with fidelity and settled his acc^t in a just manner, he would advise him not to give up the matter, but stand the trial of a court martial, which could not be denied him.

If there can be so great a misaplication and embezzlement of the publick stores, &c., as there certainly has been at York by the A. C. or those under him, and this not discovered in accounting and settling with their superiors, there may be no end to our Expence, or scarce any way to prevent Embezzling, &c.

Thus much I have thought it my duty to inform you of, and leave it to you to make such use of the information as you think proper.

I am, Sir,

your most Humble Serv^t,

DAVID JAMESON.

P. S. The D. C. G. letter to Mr Armer he received by the hands of Mr M^cCalister who shortly before told Mr Armer that if he

would except of the A. C.'s place, he could by recommending him to the D. C. G., get it for him. Mr Armer did not choose to except of the place in the manner it was offered him, and Mr M^cCalister still acts. The depositions sent down were not perhaps near so pointed as they ought to have been, they being wrote by a bad clerk, nor was the number the 5th part that might have been justly taken, because those that were taken was thought sufficient, as they were the most of them given in by creditable people of considerable property.*

Directed,

To The Honourable Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the Council, in Philadelphia.

By Captain Hauhn.

D. JAMESON AND J. EICHELBERGER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

York Town, July 1st, 1779.

Sir,

In answer to your desire of giving our opinion whether a commissary of issues is necessary at york, we beg leave to inform you of such circumstances as we think will enable you to judge of the matter.

This has been 'till lately a great thoroughfare for troops, particularly militia, in marching from the southward to the main army. There is commonly a Magazine of flower, &c.—Barracks, but no soldiers in them at present, and there was an oven erected for baking of bisknet, but lately it was burnt, and all the implements of baking consumed.

It was thought proper when the congress was here to have a Commissary of purchases, another of issues, a quarter master, Town-Major† and a Physician, which officers have been since continued. We cannot learn that any rations are issued here daily but to those officers, Waggoners, and assistants to those officers, And we therefore are of opinion that if those rations could be properly delivered out by one of the other officers or any other fit person, a commissary of issues would be unnecessary here while there was no troops sick or well, or Militia marching.

We are, Sir,

your most Humble Serv^t,

DAVID JAMESON,

JACOB EICHELBERGER.

Directed,

To The Honourable Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the Council, in Philadelphia.

By Captain Hauhn.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 27, 31, 41. † See also pp. 456, 459, of this

PRESIDENT REED TO MR. HOLKER, F. C. 1779.

In Council, Philad^a July 2^d, 1779.

Sir,

Congress having been pleased to refer to this Board a Representation made by you respecting one Francis Flury forcibly carried on board the State Ship—it was immediately taken into Consideration & the Agents of the Ship called upon to make due Inquiry therein; the Result of which I now inclose. As the Prises are not yet condemned the Demand of Prize Money is premature but you may be assured that ample Justice shall be done in this Respect & also proper Satisfaction made by the Officers of the Ship for the Injury when their Presence will enable us ascertain the Truth of the Facts & scrutinize their Conduct. I beg Leave to assure you that such Practises far from meeting with any Encouragement from us will allways be discountenanced, & we still hope that as Capt. Montgomery received Orders not to carry away any Frenchman (tho' they should inlist voluntarily) he will be able to justify himself in this particular.

I beg Leave also farther to add that the Powers of this Board being fully equal to their Dispositions to redress all Complaints of this Nature when addressed to them Applications in the first Instance to Congress will be attended with unnecessary Delay & Trouble to you & more especially as we shall on all Occasions give a proper Attention to every Representation you may think proper to make on any such Occasion.

I am Sir, with due Consideration

Your most obed. & very

Hbble. Serv.,*

Council Chamber, July 2, 1779.

JAMES LOUGHEAD P. M. TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To the President & Council for the }
common Wilth of Pennsylvania. }

Philad^a 3 July, 1779.

Gentlemen,

I am sorry to trouble council so Repeatedly for Drafts on the Treasury, necessity obliges theretoo. Therefore, must solisit council for an order for Three Thousand Pounds,† to Defray Reale Demands.

I have the Honor to be

Y^r obed^t Hum^l Serv^t,

JAMES LOUGHEAD.

Directed,

To The President & Council for the common Wilth of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 85, 87, 89.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 88.

PRES. REED, TO PRES. OF CONGRESS, 1779.

Sir,

Since we were honoured with your Favour of the Inst. we copy the Representation of the Hon. The Sieur Girard Minister of France & Mr. Holker Consul for this State. Upon which we have taken such Measures as are acknowledged by the Consul in a Letter of which the inclosed is a Copy to be perfectly satisfactory.—

We shall studiously endeavour on all Occasions to manifest to the Officers & Subjects of her most Christian Majesty the most perfect Attention & Regard—and tho in such large trading Cities some Abuses & Irregularities are unavoidable we shall prevent & remedy them by every Means in our Power.

I am Sir, with the greatest

Respect & Regard,

Your most Obed. &

very Hbble. Servt.

MR. HOLKER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, y^e 3d July, 1779.

Sir,

I am honored with your letter of yesterday & have the pleasure of assuring you that you have given satisfaction by the steps which your Excellency and Council have been pleased to take to see justice rendered to Francis Fleury who has claim'd me as Consul of this port & declared he was forcibly carried on board the ship General green. I shall be glad to learn hereafter from your Excellency wether this man has impos'd on me or not.

Observing what you are pleased to say with Respect to the application on this account, which you suppose was made by me to Congress, I beg leave to inform you that on receiving the Complaints from the said Fleury; It was thought necessary to transmit the same to Congress, the mode of application on such Cases, not having as yet been finally determined.

I shall always be ready to acknowledge that you have on all occasions paid serious attention to my Representations, I should be very happy to have it in my power to apply to your Excellency & Council with Respect to those transactions which come under my notice as

Consul for this State I am fully of your opinion that it would avoid much delay & unnecessary trouble.

I have the honor to

Remain with Respect,

Sir, your most obedient

humble Servant,

HOLKER.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State

CAPT. JAMES MONTGOMERY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

On board the Ship Gen^l Green, July 4th, 1779.

Cape Henlopen bearing South Dis^t 4 leagues.

In my last I informed your Excelency of my having join^d the frigate under the Command of Capt. Nicholson to Cruise for the three British frigats that wear Cruising on our Coast on friday Morning saw two Sail the Comador hove out a Signall to Chais at $\frac{1}{2}$ Past ten A. M., Came Cloes up with them found on to be a two Decker the other a frigate, and a large Sloop of twelve or fourteen Guns on which the Comador and other Capt^s thought they would bee too hard for us, made Sail from them and they Chaised us up to the Cape they have been seen from the shore yesterday.

The Capⁿ of our frigats behaved with Great Spirat and wear De termend to have Sold their ships Verrey Dear had the two Decker Came up with us.

The Confedriey is ordered up to town and the Capⁿ Nicholson and tucker on Some Secret Expidition So that I am left by my Self Please God I Shall go to Sea as soon as the Frigats goes out or a Day after them as I think the British Ships will watch thar motions and Perhaps follow them of some Distance which will leave me Som Room in Shore of them, their Privateers Cruises thre or for together and I expect our Coast will Swarm with them as long as their large Ships Keeps on our Coast, wich I hoop will not be long. Nevertheless I hop to Pick Some of them up in a little tim.

I Remain your Excelencies

Most obd^t Servant,

JAMES MONTGOMERY.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

* See page 531.

GEORGE WOODS TO THOMAS URIE, 1779.

Bedford, July 4th, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I have just upertunity, as fare as Carlisle, to Convey you a few lines; last Saturday was a week, a man and his daughter, of the name of Brikinridge, in wood Cock valley, was kild & Scalpt by the Indeans. The action was Don hard by hartsock's Fort. Frenkstown is intirely Evequated. M^r Holliday lives at the flat Spring, in your Vally; we have all Indevert, with Piper, what lies in Our power, to rease a fue men to kape Frenkstown Settlement together, but all to no purpose. M^r Holliday Applied to Coll^a piper for men to bring off the Stors, but was Oblaged to Lave them there. The Indeans after Deing the above mentioned Damages. They Drove off a Considerable many horsis. When the Enemy are so fare into Our Contery you must know the Situation we are all in; not a single Solger or Militia man appears in this County for Our Defence. I just now here that Coll^a piper has Got a guard at his hous. On Receving the late Instructions from Council, ~~Mr~~ Coll^a Smith, Mr. Martain has indevered to bring out a fue of the Militia from the Townships of Are & Bethul, but his Orders are immediately Countermanded by Coll^a piper, as I understand. Dear Sir, you know well whate Situation Our County is in respecting the Conduct of the Lieutenants, you have often mentioned to me Some of their feelings, & now Our poor, Starving Contery, when they have Got Something on the Ground for Gethering, Dare not Go out to Save it. Our County Seems to be pointed out for Distruction; every other frontier Settlement has Some Notice taken of them & assistance Sint them; in the name of wonder, if you are a member of Council for our County, will you never Get us taken Notice of or Git us a share of Relefe according to the rest of our Contery. I wish you would Spake your mind as freely in Council respecting Some of Our officers as you Do here; I tbnk we would be soon in a beter Situation. I am Certain you have a Gentleman now at the head of your Board that would not Suffer us to be used in the mannor Did he but Knaw it. Your Soon Rob^t is Gon out with Capt. Erwin. I understand John Montower has Come into fort pitt & some Indeans with him, I also understand he has taken in hand to bring in Simon Girty. Capt. Brady latly retook two prisoners, five Scalps & Kill^d One Indean, he is Gon out again, in Company with Montower & two Indeans, in Order to bring in Girty, which I hope They will perform.

I am, D^r Sir,

Your Ob^t Humble Serv^t,

GEORGE WOODS.

Directed,

To Thomas Urie, Esq., member of the Suprem Executive Council, Philadelphia.

GENL. WASHINGTON TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Head Quarters, New Windsor, 5th July, 1779.

Gentlemen,

I am extremely concerned to find by several letters from General Sullivan that he is like to be disappointed in the independent companies which were to reinforce him from the State of Pennsylvania. The consequences of this disappointment will certainly be very injurious. They may be more than injurious. For want of these he will be obliged to reduce his operating force to establish the necessary posts of communication, too low, perhaps, to act with safety and effect, or he must leave his communication and convoys in the most precarious state. I have advised him rather to hazard something in the last respect than in the first, with an assurance that I would again solicit the aid of the State to strengthen the posts in his rear and assist in protecting his convoys. I must entreat in the most pressing terms that the Council will be pleased, without delay, to take effectual measures to have the number of men originally requested, sent forward. If the independent companies are not ready I beg their place may be supplied by Militia, to be relieved periodically. The Council are fully sensible of the importance of success in the present expedition and of the fatal mischief which would attend a defeat—we should perhaps lose an Army, and our frontiers would be desolated and deluged in Blood. A large reinforcement has been sent from Canada to join the savages. They are collecting their force for a vigorous opposition, and if they are successful their devastations will exceed any thing we have yet experienced. Their means will be increased and their cruelty will be emboldened by success and sharpened by revenge.

It was not in my power to send a greater Continental force. I stretched this string as hard as it would possibly bear, and relied on the further aid of the States more immediately concerned. I hope I shall not be eventually disappointed. I flatter myself the Council will think my anxiety on this occasion natural and will excuse my importunity.

With very great respect and esteem,

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obed^t Serv^t,G^d. WASHINGTON.*

P. S. I shall be much obliged to the Council to Communicate what they will have it in their power to do, to General Sullivan that he may take his measures accordingly.

Indorsed,

Referred to in the Minutes of Council of the 10th of July, 1779.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII, p. 48.

MR. HOLKER TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779. .

Philadelphia, 7th 5th July, 1779.

Sir,

I received last night your polite invitation for this day at noon; I shall have the honor of meeting you at that hour, according to the appointment.

I am with due Respect Sir

Your most obedient & very
humble Servant,

HOLKER.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire President of the State.

SECY. MATLACK TO PRES. OF CONGRESS, 1779.

Philadelphia, July 6, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honour to inclose to you twenty nine bonds taken on issuing the Commissions of Congress to private ships of war the remaining commission is issued to a vessel in the service of the States and the bond is not yet executed it shall be fully transmitted to you as soon as it comes to hand.

Applications are now made for several other commissions, which make it necessary to request you will please to furnish me with such additional number of commissions as you may think proper to put into my hands and which shall be faithfully accounted for by

Your most obedient
and very humble servant.

TY. MATLACK, Secy.

Directed,

The President of Congress.

CAPT. LANG TO PRES. REED, 1779.

May it Please your Excellency:

Having the Honour at present to Command In your garrison On Mudd Island, I find myself in Duty bound to Represent:—That a Captain Gilpin, of a Virginia built Sloop, Cleared Out from Philad^a, and bound for Hispaniola, Called on me this forenoon With his papers, & Informed me he had been Ordered to do so by the Gentleman he Received his Clearances from. The Orders by which I have Hitherto conducted myself being Apparently contrary, I beg leave To lay before Your Excellency A Coppy of them, Expecting you Will thereby see it Necessary to give me some More Explicit, Especially Respecting Vessels passing this, Outward bound.

Orders Received from Capt^l McGinley On Releiving him here, June 27th, 1779.

General Orders, 2nd June, 1779.

Letter Dated Philadelphia, June 2nd, 1779.

Sir,

The Indiscriminate permission of Persons to go on Mudd Island, and view the works as they go, May be Attended With Such consequence, that I must Desire in future None may be permitted to do so. You will, therefore, on Receipt of this, place A Centinel at the wharf to prevent people's landing without first Making themselves and their business known to you, or produce a pass from Me. Those persons who belong to the Island, or whose business May Make it Necessary for them to pass backwards & forwards, May take passes from You, Which they Can show as they May be Necessary, Unless they are persons well Known to the Garrison.

I am, Sir, your

(Signed.)

Most Obedient &

very. Humble Servant,

JOSEPH REED, Presid.

P. S. —All Shallops & Small Craft are to pass freely, both up & Down. All Sea Vessels Outward bound, are also to pass, (& Inward bound if brought too at Billingsport) Without further Examination.

Adressed to the Officer Commanding on Mudd Island.

Orders Received from Captain Brown, Billingsport, June 30th,
1779.

Sir,

Please to take Notice, that if any Inward bound Sea Vessel should pass this Garrison After being fired at three times, Without bringing too, You are not to let her pass the Garrison Commanded by you untill she shows You her papers, and Gives you a Satisfactory Account of her friendly Intentions; And if they prove Unsatisfactory, you are to detain the Vessel, And then transmit the papers with the quickest dispatch to the Hon^{ble} the president and Council, and there Receive their Orders In what Manner you are to proceed.

You are Not to give any Unnecessary Delay, but to treat the Vessels with respect, whether Americans or Allies.

Signed.

I am, Sir, with

Respect, your Obedient

Humble Servant,

PETER BROWN, Capt^l Artill^r.

N. B. The Signal to Inward bound Vessels will be a Jack at the foretop Mast head, if Examined by Me.

Directed to Capt^l James Lang, Commander Mudd Island.

Billingsport, June 30th, 1779.

These being the Orders under which I act Here, Should be glad to Know your Excell^{ty} further pleasure Respecting the Reports or Returns Necessary to be Made Concerning the State of the Garrison, Magazine, or Other Stores, &c., At Such periods, and in the Manner you may judge proper.

I am, Sir, with the greatest Esteem

& Respect, your Excellen^{cy}

Most Obe^d, Humb^l Serv^t,

JAMES LANG,

Captain Penns^a Militia Artill^r.

Mudd Island, July 7th, 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the S. E. Council,
—Cap^l General & Commander in chief of the State of Pennsylvania.

LIST OF ORDNANCE STORES WANTING AT BILLINGSPOORT,
1779.

List of Ordnance Stores wanting to Compleat those in the Garrison
at Billingspoort.

500 Weight of Junk,
2 four pound Rammers,
4 Worms for 18 Pounders,
2 Horn Lanthorns,
4 Axes, 1 drawing Knife & 2 Funnelles,
1 Small Marlin Spike,
1 Skein Marline,
2 Half Inch Gimblets,
6 lbs. Ten & Twenty penny nails,
2 Small Gimblets,
1 pair Hinges, 2 Good strong Padlocks & Keys for the Magasine.

By Order of CAP^t PETER BROWN.
ARCHIBALD STUART, Clk.

Billingspoort, July 2nd, 1779.

2 Tomkins 18 pounders,
1 . . . do. 12 Do.
1 . . . do. 4 Do.
1 Spy Glass.

If the above Articles are furnished by the United States, their
Commissary must purchase them. We are very ready to assist the
State upon every Occasion wherein we deem our help necessary;
but we conceive Cap^t Stiles shou'd get proper Orders to purchase the
Articles for the State. If we have any thing which Cap^t Stiles
cannot procure, let it be Issued & Charged to the State.

By Order.

R. PETERS.

War Office, July 7th, 1779.

Mr. Pearson—C. M. S.

(Copp.)

PETITION OF JOSEPH DEAN, 1779.

To His Excellency the President and the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

The Memorial and Petition of Joseph Dean, of the City of Philadelphia, Merchant, respectfully shews:—That upon the Twenty Fourth Day of June, Anno Domini, 1777, Your Memorialist entered into an Article of Agreement with a certain William Bell, late of Philadelphia County, for the Purchase of a Tract of Land in Upper Merion Township in the said County, containing about One Hundred and Thirty Six Acres. That your Memorialist paid Four Hundred Pounds of the Purchase Money at the executing of the said Article. That the said William Bell has since been attainted of High Treason under the Laws of this State by Reason of his not surrendering of himself according to a Proclamation of the Supreme Executive Council. That the said Joseph Dean did prefer his Claim to the said 136 Acres of Land before the Honorable the Justices of the Supreme Court of this State, and has obtained their Decree that he shall hold the same to him and his Heirs, paying to the Hon^{ble} The Executive Council, or to such Person as they shall depute and authorize, such a Sum of Money as together with the £400 already paid to the said William Bell, will make up and amount to the sum of £776 for every Acre, together with Lawful Interest for such Sum, so to be paid as aforesaid from the 25th of June, 1777. That your Memorialist is now ready and willing to pay to the Hon^{ble} the Executive Council, or to such Person as they shall appoint, the said sum of Money and Interest according to the Decree of the Justices of the Supreme Court. And your Memorialist prays That the President or Vice President in Council under his Hand and the State Seal will execute to the said Joseph Dean and his Heirs a Deed confirming to him the Right and Title to the said Land.—And your Memorialist &c., &c.,

JOS. DEAN.

July 8th, 1779.

Indorsement by J. R.

On the within Petition Resolved, That on the Petitioner's pay^t to the Treasurer of the State the Rem^t of the Purchase Money & Int., he be entitled to a Deed as requested. That it be recommended to him to lay the Draught thereof before the Att^y Gen^l for his Perusal & Approbation, and that no Covenants therein extend farther than in Case of Eviction by Title Paramount—the State be not deemed responsible for more than the Money & Intst. thereon received by the State.*

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XII. p. 45.

PHILIP RYAN TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To the Honorable the Supreme Executive Council of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of Captain Philip Ryan Humbly Sheweth, That
your Petitioner have provided himself with sufficient Tackling, &c.,
in Order to Sweep in the River Delaware for Cannon, Arms,
Anchors, Cables, &c. And that your Petitioner has lately found
an Iron Cannon, being a nine Pounder, and am informed that your
Hon'ble Board grants permits to persons to sweep in the said River,
wherefore your petitioner Craves Licence to sweep in the said River,
& to abide to whatever your Honors shall restrict him to. And is
in duty bound to pray, &c.

PHILIP RYAN.

We, the Subscribers, are well acquainted with the above named
Philip Ryan, and thinks he will Answer the prayer of his Petition.

ROBERT KNOX.

Philad^a, July 9th, 1779.

JOHN HACKENWELDER TO COL. BRODHEAD, 1779.

Ceshocking, July 8th, 1779.

D^r Sir,

I have waited impatiently for an opportunity of sending the Two
letters of the last month. The reason why Mr. McCormack is so
particular in desiring the Information he has given to be kept a
secret, is because he and others, the friends to America, has suffered
much already on that account, as I did who have heard it have been
so careful as to mention him to those who had it in their power to
punish him for so doing. As he thinks that an Army from Detroit
will be this side the lake before long, and dare not Venture to write
to me, we therefore have agreed upon Several Words and Marks,
which he will send to me as soon as he hears anything certain, and
by which I shall know the numbers of Men and Cannon, as also the
place they shall have appointed for landing.

Simon Girty came here last Sunday evening with one Prisoner;
I was indeed very sorry he cou'd not be taken, and the Big Cat is
entirely to be blamed for it. Girty told a great many lies to the
people—also said he had a Pacquet of Letters which were sealed,
and as he Was desirous of Mr. McCormicks reading them; we

think if he had any 'twas those out of the hollow Tree. He told Mr. Connor to tell his Breth^r, the Americans, that he did not desire they should show him any favor, neither (said he) would he show them any. Mr. Zeisberger, who had been here to see us, and who on his way home met with those fellows, had certainly been killed by them if not accidentally Caleb and some more of the Delawares had met together. He expressed himself here with great dissatisfaction concerning the disappointment and wished us all in his power.

We hear not a single Word of the Wyandotts coming at present; a Shawnee Man, who has been here to buy Corn, says they (the Shawnees) will be able to fight better next time, and have no occasion to leave their houses as they did the last time. I have to return you my most hearty thanks for the present of Flour, Tea and Coffee you have made us, and wish it was in my power to oblige you again. Yet In the mean time my wish is y^t the Lord may reward you again for your kindness and bless you abundantly.

With the greatest Esteem, I am d^r air,

Your most obed. Serv^t,

JOHN HACKENWELDER.

(Copy.)

Directed,

Col. Brodhead, Commds, etc.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, July 9th, 1779.

Resolved, That the Executive powers of each State be earnestly requested instantly to make the strictest inquiry into the conduct of every person within such state respectively employed either in the quarter master general's, or purchasing or issuing Commissary general's department, and in case of any kind of misbehaviour or strong suspicion thereof, in any such person not being an officer immediately appointed by Congress to remove or suspend every such person, ordering him, at their discretion to be prosecuted at the expense of the United States, and to appoint another in his place if necessary, and so from time to time as occasion may be giving notice to the Board of War and also to the quarter master gen^l or Commissary general in whose department such removal or suspension shall be, of the change; The person so appointed to have the same authority and pay which the person removed had been vested with & entitled to, or such pay as the said Executive powers respectively shall agree for; to be in like manner subject to the head of

the department to which he belongs, and to observe all the regulations for the Government of deputy quarter masters and deputy Commissaries respectively, and that the Executive powers of each State be in like manner requested to inquire into the number of persons employed in the quarter master General's & Commissary's department, and immediately to discharge such as shall be judged unnecessary.

Extract from the Minutes,
CHA. THOMSON, Secy.

Indorsed,

Read in Council July 16th, 1779.

T. M. Secy.

PRES. REED TO THOMAS MOORE, 1779.

In Council,

Philada., July 9th, 1779.

Sir,

Yours of the 7th June has been duly received. Mr Hambright not having yet come to Town we have not received the Money you refer to, but as soon as he arrives your Request to exchange that Money will be duly attended to. For the Information of your Friends & Neighbours I would acquaint you that the Time of exchanging the called in Emissions is prolonged to 1st Jan^r on the Terms, therein express'd & which you will see in the inclosed News Paper.

Col. Hambright having fallen from his Horse was unable to proceed on his Journey but we are informed may be soon expected.

I am Sir, with due Regard

Your Obed. & very

Humble Serv.

Directed,

To Mr Tho^r Jordan Paymaster of Militia, Limestone Run North-
umberland County.

COL. JNO. BULL TO PRES. REED, 1779.

To the Honourable the Supreme Exec^t Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

Gent^l,

Having been Honoured by you with the Superintendence of Raising the Propos'd Fortifications and Shiverdefries &c., and I trust have made myself fully acquainted with and master of the Subject, I now feel myself Exceedingly Mortifyd and Embarrass'd to find that Labourers is not to be procured to Carry on the Necessary works, I mean the Lines of the fort, which to Compleat would not only give me the greatest Satisfaction but also gratify many Friends whose Frequent Enquiries I am at a Loss to answer, and although the building of the Shiverdefries & the Building in the Fort go on verry well by the Respective Machanicks, I find myself not thereby fully Employed at Present, and Humbly Conceive I could Render more Essential service by baring my Part for some time in the Indian Country to the Westward on or near the Frontiers of this Province or where it might be found most advisable. I am Led to believe that my Knowledge of the manner in which Indians are to be Treated and my Influence and adress with them will not be Denied by those gentlemen who may Remember that During the Campain in the Last French War to the Ohio in the year 1758, while the french were in Possession of Fort Duquesne, now fort Pitt, I with five Indians went Into their Country on the other side the Ohio and the fort with Dispatches from the government and general there held a Conferance with them Drew them off Entirely from the french Intrest, they Left the fort and we Possesed it without fighting, and also Dureing our present Contest with Britain Being appointed in Jan^r 1777, by the Council of Safety, and House of Assembly as one of the Commissioners to Hold a Treaty with a Number of the six Nation Indians Delewers &c., then assembled for that Purpose at Eastown, they the Indians made Choice of me to Superintend their affairs as may appear from the Extract hereunto anex'd which if they had been properly attended to I am Clearly of opinion might Easily have preserv'd the Interest of many of those Indians and thereby not only Prevented the Destruction of Wioming but would have been the means of Saving the Lives of many and Preserving in some measure the Peace of the Frontiers of this State in Particular, from what I have said I hope I am not misunderstood, I am by no means Tired of my Present appointment but as I have already said think myself master of the Plan in Every Respect, and no man will more Chearfully Carry it into Effectual Execution Provided Labourers Can be Procur'd.

I submit to the wisdom and Determination of Council whether to

Continue as I am or whether I Could be Better Employ'd in
spending Some time in the Indian Country to Return at Command,

I begg Leave to Subscribe myself

gentlemen your Obd^t

& Hub^t Servt

JN^t BULL.

July 9th, 1779.

P. S. As the Harvest is now in and Part of the City Militia have
Performed their Tour of Duty, Council will Best Judge whether
it may not be advisable to order out a Sufficient Number of the
Country Militia from the Adjacent Counties Viz^t Philad^a Chester
and Bucks, not from Each County at the same time, But to be
Relieved according to Rank with not Less than three Hundred Rank
& file from Each County.

PRES. REED TO THOMAS HEWITT, &C., 1779.

To Thomas Hewitt, Will. Shaw & Andrew Culbertson, Esq^r, Jus-
tices of Northumberland.

Gentlemen,

Your several Applications of the 17th June, respecting the Pro-
thonotary's Office—the Payment of the temporary Troops & the
Misconduct of the Sheriff in Office have all been laid before this
Board, & duly considered. Our Determination upon the first you
will find in the enclosed Resolve—Should Mr. Harris decline con-
tinuing in the County & you find the publick Business thereby suf-
fering you will please to represent it to us in which Case we shall
apply the necessary Remedy. The unsettled State of the County
may very probably plead some Excuse for Non Residence at present
but as you Gent., must be the best Judges how far it is inconvenient
we shall pay great Regard to your Representation thereupon. As
to the Second Point—Tho we have no Authority to advance Monies
unless in Cases directed by the House of Assembly & therefore could
wish you to postpone it to that Time, yet it appears to us to be so
reasonable that if you cannot wait we will endeavour to give you the
Relief desired. In this Case it will be necessary to send down the
Master Rolls, & attached Certificates of the Number of Men, their
Pay, Time of Service—and the like of the Officers, in order to give
due Satisfaction to the publick for such an Appropriation of their
Money. This will also be necessary in Case application is made to
the Assembly—as your own Knowledge of the Business will show
you that it would be improper for us to pay Money on so loose an
Application as the present.—The Money in Col. Hunters Hands for

the raising a Company of Rangers being placed there for that Purpose under the Resolution of Congress & Ass^y we do not at present think ourselves authorized to apply it to any other Purpose. If Col. Hunter upon whose Judgment & Prudence we very much rely can assist you in the present Exigencie, we have no Doubt he will do all in his Power to accomodate you.—But in all Cases when you expect Money & the Demand is immediate we could wish you either to send a Suitable Person or desire such a one to attend us for the Purpose, it being too hazardous to trust publick Money to casual Conveyance.

As to Mr. Lodge, we highly approve your Vigilance & Care in attending to the Conduct of Officers entrusted with the Execution of the Laws but as Mr. Hambright has been detained on the Road by a Fall from his Horse we have agreeable to his Request deferr'd the farther Consideration of this Matter till he shall attend in Council, thereupon, In the mean Time as a clear & unexceptionable Mode of doing the publick as well as Mr. Lodge Justice we think you may very properly recommend it to your Members of Assembly to lay the Accusation before the House in order that if they please Mr. Lodge may be regularly impeached & brought to Tryal agreeable to the 22^d Section of the Constitution. And as the Assembly sits so soon there will be a favourable Opp^t to do what may be proper therein. As a Ground for this Measure it will be proper that Affidavits giving him due Notice to be present should be taken of the Misconduct unless it is convenient for the Witnesses to attend in Person.

When Capt. Hambright comes you will probably hear farther & in the mean Time,

I am Gent.,

Your Obed.

Hbble Sv^t.*

PRES. REED TO COL. SAMUEL HUNTER, 1779.

In Council, Philad^a, July 9, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 26 Junet has been duly received. It gives us great Concern that the frequent Demands for Militia & Guards made by the Continental Officers obliges us to call upon you at Times & under Circumstances so very difficult—We must recommend to you as full Compliance as the State of Things will admit, but they are too reasonable upon a proper Representation to press too hard upon a County which has struggled so much & suffered so severely from the Enemy.

D^r Hutchison will be applied to respecting the Surgeons Instru-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 43.

† See page 570.

ments & if they can be procured they will be forwarded with convenient Dispatch.

We have wrote pretty fully to the Justices with Respect to the Payment of the temporary Troops; our Opinion & Wishes are that they may be paid & we doubt not this will be the Case by the State. But as the Assembly will sit in about 6 weeks it would be more satisfactory to us to receive Authority from them for the Purpose. The raising of Troops & applying the publick Money to the Payment of them without the Concurrence of publick Authority are delicate Points & tho the Necessity of the present Case may be a sufficient Apology, we have no Doubt you will see that it may grow into a very inconvenient & dangerous Practice.—But at all Events before we can appropriate Money for the Purpose the Plan on which they have been raised, the Number of Men & Officers, Time of actual Service and proper Muster Rolls &c. should all be made out to lay a just & reasonable Ground for such an Advance. In our present View of the Matter we do not think it advisable in us to apply the Money designed for the ranging Companies—Should they apply to you however you will use your own Prudence in the Matter so far as to accomodate them with a loan.

When M^r Hambright comes to Town who will take the Care of forwarding it we will send you the Ammunition requested.

We are sorry to find Capt. Kamplin's Prospects are so unfavorable in recruiting—We would wish him to continue his Exertions & hope as the Defence of the Frontiers is the special Object of their Service the Inhabitants will give them all possible Assistance & Forwardness.

We cannot conclude this Letter without expressing our Sense of your constant & useful Services to the publick which tho fatiguing & in many Respects difficult will upon Reflection afford you great Satisfaction. We shall be ready to pay a due Respect to them on all occasions & hope you will persevere with equal Alacrity to the End of the Contest which we trust by the Favour of Providence cannot be far remote.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hbb^l Servt.

Directed,

To Col. Sam^l Hunter Lieutenant of the County of Northumberland.

PRES. REED TO PURCHASERS OF FLOUR, 1779.

In Council,
Philad^a, July 10th, 1779.

Sir,

After many fruitless Attempts to procure the necessary Supplies of Cloathing for the Officers of the Army agreeable to the Resolves of the Assembly—we find ourselves obliged to have Recourse to Importation. And in order to do this on the most economical Scale, we must export Flour to Foreign Parts where the great Demand will enable us to procure Returns answerable to our Exigencies. And to do this upon the most advantageous footing we have concluded to call upon your County for Barrels, & knowing no one more ready to do the publick Service than yourself, we would request you to procure that Quantity for us with all possible Dispatch & forward it to this City to Mr Wm. Turnbull, Merchant of this City, our Agent herein. That you may have no Difficulty in the Article of Money, we shall answer your Draughts at any Time & make you a reasonable Compensation for your Trouble fully adequate to your Trouble. As to the Price wherever there has been any Agreement of the People fixing a Price we would not have you exceed it, & when there has been no such Agreement we would not have you exceed the Price at this Market, which is £20 9^s 0^d. You will easily observe that we do not address you on this Occasion as a mere Agent upon mercenary Principles—but as an Assistant to us in providing for the Comfort & creditable Appearance of a number of brave Men who are rendering us the most essential Services. At the same Time it is our full Intention that your Interest shall not suffer thereby.

You will please to address yourselves to Mr. Turnbull in the Course of the Business & acquaint him how you proceed.

I am, Sir,

LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

July 10th, 1779.

Sr,

Agreeable to directions from the Vice President of the State I inclose you my account of recruits raised for the Pennsylvania line, I am much concerned to hear so many of the recruits sent to camp have deserted, I am informed one of them fell sick & died on the road, by the account you will see I have shared in the loss by desertion as two recruits, after receiving their money, deserted before I

could get them approved of therefore could not charge no more than the allowance, tho the costs were very high on account of the reward given to every person who brought me a man, drink & cockade money, the expeace of any one of which articles would formerly have procured & paid a man. As a voucher I have added a copy of the approbation of each man certified by the chamber of accounts where I deposited the original when I gave in my account of continental bounty paid to the men I enlisted. As the money I paid for account of the State was all borrowed on a promise to repay it shortly, I hope the Hon^l Council will take it into consideration & speedily enable me to fulfill my engagements.

I am, Sir,

your most obed^t Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA, Col.

P. S. I am informed one cause of the desertion was the mens not receiving the remainder of their bounty as soon as they joined their regiments agreeable to the promise made them.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq^r, Secretary to the Hon^l Executive Council.

LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Two men from Lord Cathcarts Legion just arrived, say they deserted yesterday was a week near fort Lee as they were transporting by water some officers baggage from New York to the Army which principally lay at Kings-bridge; the Guards and Hessians in New York. The Legion is composed of four Companies of infantry, and as many troops of light horse, and consists of about 450 men, officers included. The desertion from the army very considerable, particularly of the Grenadiers. Only one man of war, a 74 gun vessel in the North river near the prison ship.

I am with respect,

your Excellencies

most Obedient serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

July 10, 1779.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

LOD. SPROGELL TO CONGRESS, 1779.

Philad., July 10, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Inclosed is an account of my allowance of Rum during our Absence from the City, having not drawn any Liequor in that time, indeed it was impracticable for me to do it, the nature of my Duty was such I never remained at one place long enough to draw being obliged to attend at every post where Troops were stationed. I therefore left it to settle with M^r Crispin at some future day—Accordingly I have applyed to him many times, his reasons always were he was not in Cash—Some time past he settled with me for my Rations of Vegetables &c., during that time when he made no objection to the Rum money. Upon application to him this day for a final settlement he told me he did not know he had any right to pay me without an order from Council. I am therefore under the necessity of troubleing your *Honours* about this matter and Request you will please to grant an Order for payment Which will oblige

Gentlemen

Y^r ma. Obed^t

Humble Servant

LOD^a SPROGELL M. M. of P.

Directed,

His Excellency the President and The Honorable the Council of Pennsylvania.

GUSTAVUS RISBERG TO PRES. REED, 1779

Commissaries Office, Philadel^a July 12th 1779.

Gentlemen,

Agreeable to your last Order M^r M^cAlister waits on You this Forenoon with his Return for last Months Issues.

When you directed me to suspend M^r M^cAlister I immediately complied therewith, & desired him to attend in order to answer before your honorable Board the Charges laid against him, therefore humbly beg, you would take his case into Consideration as the Public Service requires his attendance at York Town if acquitted.

In Case your honorable Board should not think it the proper course of Law that M^r M^cAlister should have a hearing before you, I beg leave to observe, that it has been Customary on similar Occasions to have the matter referr'd to a Court of Enquiry & from

thence to a Court Martial if necessary, and as a General Officer Commands at this Post, the like could be easily effected.

I am with Esteem

Gentlemen

Your most Obed^t serv^t

GUSTAVUS RISBERG.

D. C. G. of Issues M. Dep^t.

Directed,

The Honorable the Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

PRES. REED TO DELEGATES IN CONGRESS, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, July 12th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Having called for a Return of the weekly Issues in York Town, it is with Grief and Concern we see such an Application of the publick Provisions at a Time when every species of Oeconomy is absolutely necessary. If there is a proportional Expenditure in every small Town where these Officers are, the Resources of any Country must be unequal to the Support of the War; we do therefore more earnestly request you would urge on Congress that some immediate Inspection & View be had of the number of Officers & Dependants at their several Posts & all supernumerarys discharged without Delay. Either the Number of Persons employed is too great or the Number of Rations extravagant.

I am Gent.

Your most Obed.

Hbbl. Serv.*

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 48.

VALENTINE ECKERT TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Dear Sir,

By the Bearer herewith We have sent you the Deposition of Two Persons we order to be Qualified before Two of the Justices of this County, as you will See by the Inclosed Deposition Concerning matters and the unjust Practices of some of the officers and their Deputies in the middle Department as you requested of Mr. Eckert, if any more Proof would be necessary at any time it may be obtained. We hope Mr. Matlack will be so kind as to Lay the matter before his Excellency the President and Council of this State.

We are with due respect

your most Obedt

Humble Servant

HENRY HAFFER,
VALENTINE ECKERT.

Reading, July 18th, 1779.

*Directed,*To Timothy Matlack, Esq^r.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia 14 July, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honor of transmitting to your Excellency herewith enclosed a copy of an act of Congress of the 9th Inst,* vesting the executive Powers of each State with further authority respecting Persons employed in the Quarter Master General or purchasing or issuing Commissary General's Departments.

And am with great Respect

your Excellency's

most obedient Servant

JOHN JAY,
Presid^t.*Directed,*

His Excellency President Reed.

* See page 642.

COL. ADAM HUBLEY* TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Wyoming, July 14th, 1779.

Sir,

This will Accompany a letter from Major General Sullivan, with the Arrangement of my Regiment, to your Excellency.

The whole of the Officers are satisfied therewith, and are exceedingly desirous their Commissions might be immediately forwarded to me.

I must beg leave to trouble your Excellency to expedite this business with the Board of War, and have them forwarded before we leave this.

I, with my officers, take the liberty of recommending Serjt Henry Burley for an Ensigns Commission; his conduct & general good character whilst in the Regiment, merit the notice of your Excellency and the Hon^{ble} Body over which you preside; And I'm confident should you be pleas'd to grant our request, His future conduct will justify our recommendations.

I am exceedingly in want of Officers. Your Excellency will observe in the arrangement I want Six Ensigns, besides which, several of my officers are sick, and probably will not be able to do duty with us this Campaign.

Your Excellency will observe Lieut Jacob Weitzell (who was left out as a supernumery) carried on in the Reg^t arrangement, his general good character in the Reg^t, my personal acquaintance with him, and the desire of the officers for his continuance, induces me most particularly to recommend him to your Excellency & the Hon^{ble} Council. Should he meet with your approbation, I beg a Commission may be forwarded, agreeable to the rank he is intitled to. He is now on his way to join the Regiment.

Capt. Kean, late of Patterson's Regiment, made supernumery in the late arrangement, conceives himself considerably injured. I understand your Excellency is acquainted with the circumstances. He is desirous again to enter the Regiment, provided he can get his rank. At present no vacancy offers. I have mentioned the matter to the Officers of the Reg^t, they are against his being again admitted. I fear his taking rank again in the Reg^t, at the present time, would cause such steps to be taken by some of the Gentlemen, as would not only be exceedingly injurious to the Reg^t, but to the Expedition.

I would therefore request his case might be postpon'd untill the return of the Reg^t, when it may be examined into properly and steps taken accordingly.

Capt. Kean's good character as a Gentle^{man} and a soldier intitles him to the notice of your Excellency and the Hon^{ble} Council, and I sincerely wish he may be provided for.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII, p. 53.

Our Expedition is carrying on rather slow, owing to the delay of our provisions, &c. I sincerely pity Genl. Sullivan's situation. People who are not acquainted with the reasons of the delay I'm inform'd censure him, which is absolutely cruel and unjust. No man can be more assiduous than he is. Unless some steps are taken to find out and make an Example of the Delinquent (Qr Mas^r & Com^r) I fear our Expedition will be reduc'd to a much less compass than was intended.

We have some accounts of the savages preparing to receive us. Three hundred of them are to Harrass us on our march from this to Tioga, whilst the main body (number not known) in some part of their Country are preparing to give us Battle.

Since my arrival here the several Indepen^t Companies, Capt. Wilkeys Co. excepted, have joined me. Colo. Spencer refuses this Co., as the Resolve of Congress respecting my Reg^t, says, the Indep^t Companies rais'd in Penns^a, and afterwards annex'd to Colo. Malcolm's Regiment, are to be incorporated with the eleventh P^a Reg^t. Capt. Wilkeys Co. was originally annex'd to Colo. Spencer's Reg^t, tho' an Indep^t Pa. Company. The men are pressing me much to have them join'd to my Regiment.

As they are Troops rais'd in our State, it would be doing Justice to the State to consider and annex them to the line. I should be happy your Excellency would have a resolve pass'd in my favour. I ever considered them as a part of my Regiment, untill I was acquainted with their circumstances in that Regiment.

I am, with greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obt, hum^e Serv^t,

AD^m HUBLEY,

L^t Colo., Com^d 11th Reg^t.

Directed,

(On public service.)

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of Pennsylvania.

MATTHEW CLARKSON (MARSHAL) TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

We are sorry to inform your Excellency of the death of the honl. George Ross, Esquire,* Judge of the Court of Admiralty of this State. His Remains will be interred to morrow morning at nine o'Clock, from his late Dwelling in North Street (Hudson's Square)† opposite Christ Church Burial Ground Gate.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 46.

† After Hudson, who owned this square from Market to Arch, and from Fifth to Sixth as an orchard.—T. Matlack, whose name as Secretary so often occurs (when a young man) rented the whole square for \$8 per annum, as a pasture lot for his horse. See Watson, Vol. I., pp. 281, 496.

We beg leave to request your Excellency and the Honorable the Council will be pleased to attend the Funeral.

We have the Honor to be

your Excellency's

most obed. humb. Serv^{ts},

MATTH. CLARKSON,

Marshal.

ANDREW ROBESON, Rag^r.

Philadelphia, Wednesday, July 14, 1779.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

PRES'T REED TO GEN. WASHINGTON, 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a, July 11th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Excell^y Favour of the 5 Ins^t was duly received, and tho it was & is the universal Opinion that the Number of Men under General Sullivan is greater than can be fed when he proceeds a little farther on the Expedition yet we gave early & peremptory Orders to the Companies of Rangers to join him as soon as they were completed to any tolerable Number, we also directed the Militia of the adjoining Counties to give all possible Aid, as we were resolved that should the Expedition fail of Success no Imputation should justly fall upon the State of Pennsylvania. Our Prospects of raising these Men were very flattering, the Success in recruiting for a little Time having equalled or rather exceeded our Expectations—but the Qr. Masters Department having Occasion for a Number of Battoemen & offering £45 ^{per} Month & a Ration & a half ^{per} Day were Terms so superior to what we had to offer, that the Service has languished ever since, & it is very doubtful whether they will ever be completed. It is a general Opinion that the Boat Men might have been procured upon more favourable Terms, but as it was a necessary Service & well meant, we can only wish better Information had been had. Every State & Country is limited in its Powers, & if its Resources are drawn off in our Service they cannot be had in another. Two hundred are engaged in this Boat Service all of this State, besides which the Number of Deputies, Assistants & Helpers amount to a great Number—we would not infer from this that they are unnecessary, but to account for the Deficiency of these Companies which otherwise would have been very complete. We beg Leave to refer

* Judge Ross was succeeded by Francis Hopkinson, Esq., appointed July 16. See Col. Rec., Vol. XII, pp. 49, 50, and 558 of this.

your Excell^y to the inclosed Letter which will show that no Orders have been wanting on our Part, & that there is every Disposition in the Officers under us to execute as far as they can.

It is much to be wished that instead of troubling your Excell^y with this circuitous Mode of Application Genl. Sullivan would address himself directly to us, we have assured him that we will endeavour to give him every Aid & Assistance in our Power, & when it cannot be done we shall at least be able to give him sufficient Reasons. We have not had a Line from him since he left Easton, & this we knew from other Advices that these Companies had not joined, we had not any Information on the Subject from the General himself.

We are very sensible, Sir, that this Expedition has received all possible Aid from you, it has also been fostered & cherished by this State, we have drawn off our Waggon^s at £4. 10 ⁹/₁₆ Day, which will not pay the Drivers & shoe the Horses—we have stop'd a great Number of Plows—the Encouragement of 100 Dollars by Congress was so small that the State added Stores, Shirts, Leggins, Blankets & Arms amounting to treble the Sum. Our Orders & Measures since would shew your Excell^y our Anxiety on this Subject in so striking a View as to exclude every Supposition that any Thing is omitted in our Power to procure the desired Success. But we cannot change the Course of Things & Order of Providence to advance Genl. Sullivans Views be they ever so apparently salutary—and we hope his Recollection of past Periods wherein he has seen you rise superior to Disappointments & Deficiencies far more important, will strengthen his Mind to obviate those which may occur to him.

With perfect Esteem & Respect,

I have the Honor to be

your Excell^y most Obed. & very Hbble.

W. C. BRADFORD, P. M., TO PRES. REED, 1779.

To The Hon^{ble} the Supreme Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

As the pay is due to the Officers and Men belonging to the State Fleet for the Months of May and June, pray that I may receive an order for One thousand pounds.

I am Gent^l,

your Very Humb. Serv.,

W^m C. BRADFORD,

P. M.*

Philad^a, July 14, 1779.

Directed,

To The Hon^{ble} Supreme Executive Council, Pres.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 48.

PRES. REED TO DELEGATES IN CONGRESS, 1779.

In Council,
Philadelphia, July 15, 1779.

Gentlemen,

We have perused the Resolution of Congress of the 9th Inst,* tending to a Reformation of the Qr Masters & Commissary's Departm^t & shall most chearfully co-operate with that Hon. Body in this necessary & important Work. But we apprehend a farther Resolution will be necessary to produce the desired Effect viz., a Power to call upon the Deputies for Lists of the several officers & Returns of the Issues both of Provisions & Forage; & in case of imputed Delinquency that it be made the duty of the Parties when duly noticed to attend. If such Powers are not given, we are clearly of Opinion Opposition & perhaps Contempt will follow any Measure to put the other Resolve in Execution, for we are sorry to say many of these Abuses are so inveterate by long Usage that unless the Powers given are ample & equal to the Exigency the Evils will be confirmed instead of being redressed.

We are also of Opinion that the medical Departm^t so far as relates to its Stores & Supplies should be included in the Resolution.

We therefore desire you to move in Congress for such a supplementary Resolution as soon as other Business of that hon^e Body will admit, Complaints being every Day more loud & numerous.

I am Gent.,
with due Respect
your Obed. H^bb Serv^t

PRES. REED TO WM. HENRY, 1779.

In Council,
Philad^a, July 15th, 1779.

Sir,

I herewith transmit you a Resolve of Council upon an important Subject together with such Papers as relate thereto. You will see the Necessity of giving this board full Information & also furnish it with such Proofs as may be necessary to explain the Transaction or authenticate the Claim you have to the Flour in Question. This the Honour of the State as well as the Principles of Policy & Justice require & we doubt not you will give it immediate attention.† You

* See page 542.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 46.

will return the Papers herewith, our Desire to save Time having induced us to forward the originals.

I am Sir,
with due Regard
your Obed. H^bble Serv^t

JO: REED.

Indorsed,

To Wm. Henry, Esq., Chairman of the Committee, &c.

PRES. REED TO FRANCIS HOPKINSON, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I have the Pleasure of informing you that you are unanimously appointed Judge of the Admiralty in Succession to M^r Ross—The Commission will be made out this Day, & as the Business of the Court requires immediate Attention, it is the Desire of Council that you will take the Oath of Office tomorrow Morning in the Council Chamber.

Wishing you Happiness & Success on this as well as on every other Occasion,

I remain Sir,
your most Obed. &
very H^bbl Serv^t*

Directed,

To Francis Hopkinson, Esq^r.

PRES. REED TO MR. HOLKER, 1779.

In Council, Philada., July 16th, 1779.

To the Honble. Mr. Holker.

Sir,

The Hon^e the Congress of the United States having referr'd to this Board a Complaint made by you respecting a Quantity of Flour purchased by one Rumford at Wilmington, The Council proceeded to the Consideration thereof, but being informed that the Minister of France had also made some Representation thereupon to Congress, we waited a few Days, that in Case of any Reference to this Board we might have the Subject fully before us, & take the whole into

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 49, and page 554; of this.

Consideration at the same Time. But having received nothing farther, we would not any longer delay proceeding thereupon. You will observe Sir, by the enclosed Resolve that we have called upon the Persons complained of to render an Account of their Proceeding in the Matter & their Reasons therefor, which the Principles of Justice & Reason of the Case required before we could come to any Determination. And which was the more necessary as nothing appeared in the Paper transmitted to us which gave any Information in this Point.

As this Complaint has come to us through the Medium of Congress, it might perhaps have been more proper & regular to have address'd you through the same Medium—but as more Time has elapsed than we intended, we would not add to the Delay by subjecting the Information to the necessary Formalities of the Hon. House.

I now beg Leave to assure you of our sincere Intentions to give you that Satisfaction on this as well as on all other Occasions which the Justice & Propriety of the Case may at all Times demand, and also of the personal Respect with which

I am Sir, your most obed.

& very Hbbl. Serv^t.*

COL. JACOB MORGAN, JR., TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Reading, 17th July, 1779.

Hon^d Sir,

I this day received your favor of the 10th Inst, and shall immediately set about to execute your orders contain'd in it, although I fear I shall not be able to accomplish it in any reasonable time, as chief part of the old Wheat is sold and engaged for the Public, and the Farmers in general do not begin to Thrash out their new Grain untill they have done sowing, which will not be untill sometime in October; but that consideration shall not in the least discourage me from seting about to collect as much as possible; shall inform Mr. Turnbull of my success in business occasionally.

I look on your appointment as a Honour,—shall not expect more for transacting the Business than you give others; should be glad at all times to render every Service that lies in my Power to the most Hon^{ble} part of the Community, which I look on the brave men who are fighting for us to be at the low wages they receive. Your appointment will not in the least interfere in my Quarter Master's Office;—my assistants can without the least inconvenience be of Service in collecting it. I shall be glad you will be pleased to inform me whether I shall give the Philadelphia Market price at

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 47, 66, 68.

the Mills; I fear I shall not be able to get it under, as the Purchasing Commissary gives that.

With respect I have the Honour to be

Your most Ob^d Humble Servant,

JACOB MORGAN, jr.*

Directed,

Public Service.

Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, Presd^t State of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia.

Favor'd 39 Col. Nagle.

THOS. BRADFORD, C. P., TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philada., July 17th, 1779.

May it please your Excellency,

Being in want of two Officers and twenty or thirty men as a guard to go with some prisoners of war to Elizabeth Town, and finding the garrison of this City too weak to furnish them, I am induc'd to request Council to furnish me with a party of militia for the above purpose, to be ready on Thursday next.†

I remain your Excellency's

Obedient Humble Servant,

THOS. BRADFORD,

Com^r of Pris^{ns}.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, In Council, Present.

Indorsed,

Rec^d 19th & read in Council.—Consid^d, referred to the next Day.

MR. HOLKER, F. C., TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, y^e 17th July, 1779.

Sir,

I was honoured Last evening with your letter dated in Council y^e 16th July,‡ relative to a quantity of Flour purchased by M^r Rumford of Wilmington, in Consequence of my directions, for the use of his Majesty's Squadron, Commanded by his Excellency vice admiral Count d'Estaing. I beg leave to present you my thanks for your attention in informing me that your Excellency & Council have

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 53.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 53, 55.

‡ See page 558.

been pleased to take some measures in order to acquire a sufficient knowledge of this matter.

Permit me Sir, to add that I presume it is of very great importance your information on this Subject should be reported to Congress with all possible speed, so as the necessary steps may be adopted to ensure to his Majesty's fleet those supplies which may be expected from these states. I am thoroughly convinced of your sincere intention to give me satisfaction on all occasions; therefore with entire Confidence in your sense of Justice & propriety, I have the honor to subscribe myself most respectfully*

Your Excellency's most obedient

& very humble Servant,

HOLKER.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State.

COL. L. NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Three deserters from the 38th, 2 grenadiers & 1 light Infantry man are just arrived, they left the enemy the 8th about 12 miles from New haven. The party they belonged to went by land from Kingsbridge under the Command of Gen. Vaughan their principal business was to collect forage of which they got but little & not one beast, all the stock having been driven off.

Governor Tryon Commanded the party that went by water, but Gen. Vaughan* had the nominal Command of the whole though General Clinton went on the expedition. The morning they came off Tryon burned Fairfield then embarked, his party consisted of 4 Regiments from Rhode Island and two from Phillips's manor, when at Horse-neck these men heard Tryon had given the Inhabitants of New haven two hours to remove their best effects and then gave up the Town to plunder.

Desertion very Considerable particularly among the grenadiers on account of the ill treatment they receive from Col. York, their Commander. A general dissatisfaction prevails in the army for want of pay. Two deserters from the grenadiers were overtaken and hung.

I am with respect,

Your Excellencys

most obedient Servant,

LEWIS NICOLA, P. M.

July 18th, 1779.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of this State.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 43, 54, 56, 59, 60.

† See Vol. V., p. 688.

CAPT. DANIEL JOY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

A return of all the State & Continental Cannon here, Mudd Island & Billingsport.

Nature of the Cannon in Pounds.	State guns at Philada.			State guns at,		Continental guns at		
	Fit for Service.	with one Trunnion	Without Trunnions	Mudd Island	Billingsport.	Philada.	Mudd Island	Billingsport
Mounted								
82				1				
24	1			1		2		
18				2	6	1		
12								1
4							1	1
Not Mounted								
18	8	5	5			1		
12						4		
4						2		

Philada., July 19th, 1779.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of war to deliver you a return of the State and Continental cannon that will be left for the defence of this City &c., and to acquaint you that the Continental Artificers will be constantly engaged for a considerable time in making a number of carriages that is to be forwarded after cannon that is to be immediately sent of to head Quarters; That you may know how to proceed in future with respect to getting gun carriages made &c.

I am with much

Esteem, your

Hble Serv^t,

DANIEL JOY.

Directed,

To his Excel^y Joseph Reed, Esq.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sr,

A German deserter has just left me, he belonged to a corps of Huzars commanded by Col. Deamer, a german never having heard of such a corps amongst the English I made some enquiries about it & received the following information.

It is about six months since it was formed at New York & consists of 80 men, 28 of which had belonged to Gen. Burgoin's army & when prisoners escaped & got into New York, 9 or 10 where inhabi-

tants of New York or its neighborhood, two of the name of Sowers, Philadelphians, the rest had come from Europe on various occasions.

This corps lies at Philberts house, 20 miles from New York & had pushed a party of 16 men to about four miles from Horseneck, when he, with two others deserted but was the only one that escaped by the goodness of his horse, says he deserted last tuesday was a week, & was in Newhaven when the alarm was given on the appearance of the English.

I am with respect

Your Excellencies

most obed^t Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

July 19th, 1779.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

CAP. JOSEPH ERWIN, TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Hannastown, July 20th, 1779.

May it please your Excellency,

In obedience to the Orders of Council with infinite pain and difficulty I have enlisted forty five Men for the service of our frontiers and have them now at the place of their destination and endeavouring to be serviceable to the distressed Inhabitants.

As an Officer in the Service of our State I should be guilty of the highest neglect was I not to inform Council of the hardships I have encountered and I fear without the Assistance of Council it will be no hard task to tell what my poor men are yet to suffer.

Destitute of the resources of the public stores I have now these men on your frontiers totally destitute of Blankets Shoes and every necessary Cloathing—Guns we have but those we have are the refuge of the Military Store at fort Pitt and to sum up the whole We are nearly destitute of every Necessary.

I apprehended it to be a duty incumbent on me to make a representation to Council and petition them to afford me Assistance.

I have nothing further to communicate but to assure your Excellency,

I have the honor to be

your most Obedient

humble Servant

JO^r. ERWIN, Cap^t.

P. S. I had forgot to inform your Excellency that my Subaltern Officers who were first pointed out for the present Service, have

declined their Appointments and agreeable to your former directions to Col^r Lochry my Officers are at this time John Jamison 1st Lieut. and Henry Armstrong 2^d Lieut. and I shall be greatly obliged if Council will send the Commissions by the first opportunity.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r.

COL. A. LOCHRY TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Hannas Town, July 20th, 1779.

May it please your Excellency,

I was honored with your Excellencys letter of the 21st May† last, and am sorry to find the Council did not understand the meaning of the frontier Inhabitants of this County being put under pay and rations;—It never was intended the whole County should be put under pay, but only such as were closely confined in Garrisons, having no opportunity of getting their Subsistence, and being so reduced by the distresses of the war as not to be able to transport themselves to some place of Safety; these people having lost all their Substance it was generally thought they might be indulged with that priviledge.

Col^r Brodheads plans I hope under God will be successful as he is doing every thing in his power for our common defence.

The application I made for Arms I confess was not proper but "Necessity in some cases has no Law," I received £1,000 for the purpose of purchasing Arms for the County as the law directs, and I flatter myself that sum has been laid out for the purpose it was intended, with the Greatest Oeconomy, and I trust to the best advantage.

I have never received as much Cash in the County as would pay the Public Debts I was directed to discharge; nor have I ever been able to procure the Arms for the County the Law directed; all the Arms we had have been constantly in actual Service, and I am sorry to inform your Excellency that by Militia Deserters and Emigrants when we lost a stand of arms we lost the man. What few arms we have still left are so out of repair that they are almost useless, and it is out of my power to get them repaired in this quarter.

It gives me no small uneasiness to hear of the Degeneracy of the York County Militia, but by this time I hope they have returned to that duty they owe to themselves, to the State, and to Posterity.

I cannot help expressing my Gratitude to his Excellency General

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 78, rec. Aug. 14.

† See page 480.

Washington for the Concern he expresses for our frontiers; and to Council for the active part they have taken in their favor.

The two Companies raised by Genl. M'Intosh's orders are nearly compleated and are now at the Kittanning or scouting in that neighbourhood, but I am sorry to inform you their times will shortly expire, so that it will be necessary for Council to give directions concerning them.

Your Excellency informs me you have sent 20,000 Dollars for the public service but I only received 10,000 Col^d Davis having appropriated the other 10,000 for the use of Capt. Erwins Company; the sum I received shall be carefully paid, and an Account of the Expenditure transmitted to Council as soon as possible—and I could wish the Directions of Council relative to the destinations of such troops as may be sent out for the defence of the frontiers, As Capt. Erwins Company arrived here some time ago and said he was to take directions from me.

I am certain, and I trust every Individual on our frontiers are fully convinced of the good Intentions of Council to us. We well know we are not the only people in these States involved in Calamity and distress; but I hope thro' the divine providence and our common efforts we may soon obtain the blessings of Peace, Liberty, and Independence.

I shall be much obliged to Col^d Matlack to send me some tavern Licenses and other necessary blanks, as I have none signed by your Excellency; and I hope to be able to settle my Accounts by the next opportunity.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect

Your Excellencys

most obedient &

most humble servant,

A. LOCHRY, C. L.*

P. S. I had forgot to inform your Excellency that Capt Erwins Subalterns have declined that service and in obedience to your directions I have nominated John Jameson his 1st Lieut. and Henry Armstrong 2^d Lieut. in that Company I have further to inform your Excellency that Capt. Jacks Ensign has resigned and I have nominated John Cooper to that Vacancy.

I remain as before,

A. LOCHRY, C. L.

- Directed,

His Excellency the President of the Supream Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

* Read in Council Aug. 14, see Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 78.

PRES. REED TO CAPT. NATHAN BOYS, 1779.

Sir,

Col. Bull has represented to us, that he now has got some of the Chevaux de frize ready for sinking, but will require both Advice & Assistance in doing it. I have no Doubt that you & the other Gentlemen Officers will give him both, & request you so to do. Col. Bull will make such additional Allowance to the Men as may be an Encouragement; & after the liberal Treatment they have had from the State, we presume they will cheerfully labour in a Service of so much Importance to the City.

I am, Sir, Your

Obed. & very Humbl. Ser.,

JOS. REED, Presidt.

To Capt. Boys.

Philada., July 20, 1779.

PRES. REED TO MAJ. GEO. HERVY, 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a, July 20^a, 1779.

Sir,

Mr McClanachan having applied for some of the disabled Guns belonging to the State for Ballast—You may accommodate him therewith, he paying therefor*; about Ten Tons is the Quantity ask'd. The Price is refer'd to your Judgm't, at the same Time informing you for your Governm't, that if delivered at Chester, the Ironmasters will give you one Ton of Bar Iron for 4 Tons of the old Metal.

I am, Sir, Your obed.,

& very Humbl. Serv.,

J. R., president.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 54.

PRES. REED TO CAPT. LANG, 1779.

Sir,

I duly received yours of the 7th Inst.,* reciting the Copies of the Orders left by Capt. McGinley, & mentioning that a Vessel, outward bound, had called upon you, & requesting more explicit Directions touching outward bound Vessels.—I do not know the Reasons of this Captain's Conduct, or her Owner's Orders, it being my Intentions that Vessels should pass with as little Molestation as possible.—You will therefore take the follow^r as the Line of Duty to be observed at Mud Island :—All Vessels, both great & small, outward bound, to pass without Molestation—all Sea Vessels who have not touch'd at Billingsport are to be stopped by you ; but if they have been examined there it will not be necessary.—You are to be as careful as possible of Ammunition, avoiding all unnecessary Firing.—Captain Brown's Directions appear to me very judicious & proper.—You will also send me, once a Month, a Return of the Stores, &c., & give me Information of all extraordinary Occurrences.

Wishing you, & all the Gentlemen with you, both Officers & Privates, Health & an agreeable Tour of Duty,

I remain, Sir, your most

Obed. & very Hbbl. Serv^t,

J. R.

To Capt. Lang—Command. Officer at Mud Island.

COL. MARSTELLER TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Lebanon, 21 July, 1779.

Sir,

Your Excellency's Favar of the 10th Instant† requesting me to procure 600 Barrells of Flour in the County of Lancaster came to hand yesterday and as other Business required my sending Express to Philadelphia, I thought it my duty to give your Excellency the earliest Information of my willingness to procure the same and make no doubt but in a reasonable time shall have that number compleat, as I have now upwards of 2000 Bushels of good Wheat purchased (which I intended for the Commissary's Departm^t keeping the Offall for Horse food) but as I have not engaged it to any Person, nor drawn or Received Money from any Person on Account thereof I intend now to keep it, towards making up the Flour demanded. The Wheat I have on hand I purchased at different Prices viz., £9 £8 10. £8. £7 10. & hope to procure the remainder for £7 7½

* See page 587-8.

† See page 548.

Bushell, which will reduce Flour to £20 3/4 Cent & under, after keeping the Offall for Public Horse food at the Price I gladly pay to other Persons. It is true a Committee of Lancaster Townsmen have regulated the prices of some few Articles, among others Wheat at £5. & Flour at £15. but all Public purchasers with my self found it an impossibility to procure the necessary supplies, at the regulated prices. Therefore were obliged to Deviate from their rule, or starve the army. We made a Rule among ourselves to lower the Prices of Wheat and Rye 10s. 3/4 Bush^l weekly & inferior Grain in proportion, which had the desired Effect as it reduced the prices of Wheat & Rye from £10 to £7 10 3/4 Bush^l. You may rest assured sir that I shall do my utmost endeavours to procure the Flour demanded upon as good Terms as possibly may be, Tendering you a Just and true Account with sufficient Vouchers for all expenditures thereon & flatter myself that my Conduct in this affair will convince your Excellency, that I do not mean to be a mere Agent upon mercenary Principals, but from a desire to have it in my power to serve my Bleeding & distress'd Country.

You will be pleased to send me by the Bearer hereof M^r Gloninger (my Assistant) Twenty thousand Pounds to enable me to prosecute this Business expeditiously, for I wish to purchase as much old Wheat as possible, it being much superior to the new, by reason of the heavy milldews.

I am Your Excellency's
most Obedient &
very humble Servant,
PHILIP MARSTELLER.*

P. S. If the advance monies for the two militia Companies is not yet sent, the Bearer may bring it.

Directed,

Public Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r Philad^a.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MAJOR GENERAL SULLIVAN TO
CONGRESS, 1779.

Dated Head quarters, Wyoming, July 21st, 1779.

"General Washington in consequence of my letters wrote the executive Council of Pennsylvania for Rangers & Rifle-men. They engaged seven hundred and twenty, and the President frequently wrote me that they would be ready in season; not a man of them has joined us, nor are any about to do it, the reason assigned by

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 67.

them, is that the quarter master gave such extravagant prices to boatmen, that they all enlisted into the boat service—but this is evidently a mistake for we have not a hundred boatmen engaged for the army, and but forty two pack horsemen. so that I must draught for boatmen and pack horsemen."

Directed,

President and Council of Pennsylvania.

PRES. REED TO COL. BRODHEAD, 1779.

Dr Sir,

Your several Favours of the 5th, 22^d of May & 24th June, with the Inclosures, have been duly received—And it gives us great Satisfaction to find Appearances & Prospects are so favourable; it redounds much to the Honour of your Command, & I have the Pleasure to assure you all our Advices from the back Country correspond with yours.—As to Fort Laurens, it has been saved more by a Miracle than any Thing else; and tho' it may be kept up as a stepping Stone to Detroit, I can see no other Benefits to be derived from it. Gen. Washington was apprehensive that the evacuation of it this Spring would have given great Encouragement to the Savages about Detroit, which was his Reason for holding it—not any Opinion of the intrinsic Worth of the Post.

We have, agreeable to your Desire, represented to the People of Westmoreland the Necessity of giving you all the Assistance in their Power; & as it is their Interest, we hope they will not neglect it; in the mean Time we would wish you to treat them with all possible Tenderness; when they see you laboring for their Safety & Welfare, they cannot but exert themselves to make your Command easy as far as depends upon them.—I wish it were in our Power to furnish you with a few Indian Goods, but there are two very strong Reasons why we cannot supply you—The first, that they are not to be procured, & the other, that I doubt whether the People in the Back Counties would suffer them to proceed, so violent are the Prejudices against the Indians. It has been with great Difficulty that we got the Indians back that came down lately; there were several Parties made up to destroy them on their Return, which were disappointed by the Indians taking an unexpected & circuitous Route.

We have sounded Congress & the General about giving a Reward for Scalps, but there is so evident a Reluctance on the Subject, & an Apprehension that it may be improved by our Enemies to a national Reproach, that at present we cannot venture to make any authoritative

Offers; but as we have great Confidence in your Judgment & Discretion, must leave it to you to act therein as they shall direct.

The Gratitude of the Officers of Pennsylvania for the generous Supplies afforded by the State, does themselves & the State great Honour.—It is our Misfortune that a confined Trade & horrid Spirit of Gain which has pervaded so many Ranks of People, has gross'd, in a Degree, our farther Views; but we hope still to surmount them & make Pennsylv. a Pattern for other States.—We directed Col. Bayard to take up Lists of the Prices affixed to the several Articles of Supply, leaving the Mode of Distribution, &c., to yourself. I am sorry to find by your last Letter that you did not receive the Liquor in the same good Condition as it was sent—These are Accidents that I foresee are unavoidable.

With Respect to the State Bounty, whenever you forward the proper Certificates & Attestations of the Men who reinlist, we shall readily give Orders for the Payment; but I apprehend that it will not be expected that the recruiting Money to the Officer will be demanded, as in Case of a new Recruit the Nature & Trouble of the Inlistment being so different, though doubtless there will be some Allowance over in this Case.

I am happy to find you think the internal Disputes are ill timed; they certainly are so in every Respect, & have given the Enemy more Encouragement to continue the War than any other—let any one read Johnston's Speeches (who now has much to say in England) & other Acc^{ts}, & he will find that the Measures now taken are chiefly founded on the Dissensions among ourselves & the great Number of their supposed Adherents.—You are surprised that the Tories should have an Existence among us, but you would not be so if you knew how much they are cherish'd & countenanced by many good Whigs, even by some who have risked their Lives on the field. The Time, I hope, will come when there will be but one Sentiment respecting these Wretches.—With Respect to Supplies, we have just now purchased 115 Pieces of Linnen, which are in Hand —& 50 Hhds. of the most excellent Jamaica Rum were brought into a Port, equal to any common Spirit. We are also upon a Plan of Exportation of Flour, the Returns to be in Cloth, &c., for the Army. All other Modes being found ineffectual.—I believe Broad Cloth is now at £60 ³/₄ Y^d at least, & not 50 Yds. of blue to be got for that in the whole City. Trimmings none. You may rest assured that you will not be passed or neglected. In the Fall I would have you send down some prudent, discreet Officer to take the Care & Direction of these Things for the Benefit of the Troops with you.—You say you dread a dishonourable Peace, & will bleed freely to prevent it—it is a sentiment worthy an American Officer. I hope they will all think with you, nor suffer their honest Minds to be warp'd with Party.

But Peace, I believe, is the last Object in the Contemplation of the British Ministry; the inclosed Papers will shew you what horrid

Devastations they are making in New England, which we are informed is only a Beginning of the System actually formed in the Cabinet of Great Britain, & the Execution of which even British Officers are ashamed of.

The Papers will give you all the News from Carolina, nothing having come from thence which is not inserted. On the North River, where all Expectations of any Thing more than a Sleepy Campaign had subsided, Genl. Wayne made the noble stroke ment^d in the inclosed. It has done him great Honour & redounded not a little to that of the State whose Officers have had so great a Share in it. Gen. Sullivan's expedition stands still. Reasons are assigned that Provisions are scarce & difficult, however we hope soon to hear it is in forwardness. He has a respectable Force, at least, 3500 Men, but does not think these sufficient. It grieves me to find the People of Westmoreland backward in giving you what Assistance they can, you may depend upon them having every Stimulus from us to support & assist you.

If your Son writes you, as I suppose he does, he will remove every Impression from your Mind that he has been overlook'd or neglected by us. I considered the captive Officers as entitled to every mark of Respect & Attention, to a Re-entrance into the Army in the same Rank as if they had never been captured. I drew the Resolves of Congress of the 24 November, got them passed & while I remained on the Committee of Arrangement introduced a Number of them & assure you delivered the List of Officers to be provided for, to the Board of War, among whom was your Son. This List went to Camp, when a Board of Officers was appointed, who finished the Arrangement, precluded every officer not then actually introduced, & attempted to dislodge those who had. In Consequence, Commissions were immediately obtained & a Resolve passed of the most injurious kind to put these officers on the supernumerary List. This is a true State of the Case, which your Son and all the Officers well know, as they have ever found in me a steady Friend & Associate, tho' I endangered my Popularity with the Officers of the Line by espousing their Cause so warmly. I have wrote several times to Genl. Washington to entreat his Patronage of these deserving Officers, as I found Injustice was like to be done, but whether the Torrent was too strong for him to resist or the great Concerns of his Office prevented his attending to it, they have been most cruelly laid aside with the Supernumeraries, many of whom you know were fit for nothing else. The first Reg^t objected to receiving any of these Officers & the rest, as might be expected, soon followed. However, I have advised them never to give it up, & have now given your son a Certificate of his Merit, Service, &c., & he is gone to Camp to make a vigorous Effort. You will now exercise your own Judgment in the Matter, & be assured that had they been my own Brothers I could not have done more for them.

I must now thank you for the particular Advices you have sent

us & hope you will continue so to do ; they have been so satisfactory that besides sending them to Congress, I have given the Substance of them to the Publick, in such Terms as I thought due to you & the Gentlemen with you. As you will see by the inclosed Papers, I also send you a News Paper in which is a Preface to a Plan under Consideration for the more effectual Provision of Officers & Soldiers at the End of the War. This is a Matter which I have much at Heart, & shall use what little Influence I have to carry it into effect.

I sent your Letter to Congress but have not heard of their doing any Thing for the young Delaware—when your next Supply of Cloathing, &c., goes up you had better do something yourself or give your Officer who may come down, Instructions to have some Trinket got, it is not the Expence so much as the Trouble of procuring these Things which prevents their being done.

The Restoration of publick Credit & reduction of Prices, are now the great objects of publick Attention. Committees are revived & in short there is a Struggle of an interesting Kind, whether it will end in a dying Convulsion or by a vigorous political Effort throw off the Disorder, Time must determine. It is a good symptom & shows there is Strength in the Constitution, Tho' it has long laboured under the Disease of Depreciation.

You will continue your Acc^s as Time & Opp^r admit, & believe me, Sir,

With due Regard & Esteem,
Your most obed. & very H^{ble} Serv^t,

COL. JOHN WETZEL TO PRES. REED, 1779.

To His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r, President of the Supream Executive Council and the Honourable Members of the Council of this State.

Gentlemen,

I this moment Rec^d an express from Col^o Strouds, informing me that he hourly expected an attack from the Indians, (their being a Large Bodey of them the numbers not yet known) at the Minesinks, and are Got Down as farr as Aaron Frandenburs, in y^e Jerseys, and they have burnt his house and Barn, and have taken sum prisseners their. Gent^l Col^o Stroud in his Letter to me Greatly Complains for the whant of Aminition and whee have know Aminition hear to send him I humbly beg your Excellency will give Orders to the Comas^r of M. Stores for sum Aminition I haveing Ordered a number of men up to Col. Strouds Assistance as fast as possibly.

JOHN WETZEL, Lieu^t.*

Northampton, y^e 22nd of July, 1779.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 57, 55, also page 573 of this.

JOHN VANCAMPEN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Lower Smithfield,

July 22, 1779.

Hon^r Sir,

This morning I Returned home from Minnyesink at which place I left last Evening where I was the spectator of great Distress's of many Families left bare and destitute of all Necessaries of life who lived formerly in the Midst of Plenty, the Depredations of the Enemy your Honour will Observe by the Inclos'd Deposition the People in general are all fled in Forts Both sides of the River the Distress's is very great in our parts & adjacent Neighbours, after Informing your Hon^r of all the Distress's, I am much pleas'd to see the People animated with such spirit, one Hund'd & five men under the Command of Major Meeker of the State of New York by the last Accounts Last Evening was in pursuit of the Enemy within four or five miles Distance of their Rear, this morning one Clock, P. M., Capt. Shymer march't across the River Delaware with one hundred & seventy men with an intent to head them off at the mouth of Lakervack taken with him 5 Days Provision. I Flatter my self in a few Days to give y^r Honour an agreeable account of those brave men who are always Ready to step Forth in the Defence of their Cuntry.

I am Sir,

your Hon^r Most Obd^tHum^l serv^t

JOHN VANCAMPEN.*

P. S. We have apply'd to our Lein's sundry times for Relief but none yet Came.

Coll. Jacob Strowd takes the part of a Brave officer with a few of his Neighbours who Scouts in the woods with him.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 62.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 65.

COL. SAM. HUNTER TO COL. MATTH'W SMITH, 1779.

Fort Augusta, 23d July, 1779.

Dear Sir,

We have Realy Distressing times at present in this County Occasioned by the late Depredations committed by the Savages on our Defenceless Frontiers, Immediately after the Evacuation of Fort Muncy, the Indians began their cruel murders again—the 3d Ins^t they killed three men, & took two Prisoners at Lycoming—the eighth Ins^t, they burned the Widdow Smiths Mills & killd one man, 17th Ins^t, they killd two men, and took three Prisoners from Fort Brady, the same day they Burned Starrets Mills & all the Princeable Houses in Muncy Township, the 20th Ins^t, they killd three men at Freeland's Fort, and took two Prisoners, them sticking so close to this County after the Continentall troops has marched to Wyoming, has intimidated the people so much that they are Realy on the Eve of deserting the County intirely as there is no Prospect of any assistance, that the People on the Frontiers Could get their Harviets put up, I thought the army marching Even to Wyoming would Draw the attention of the Savages from us, but I think it never was worse than at present, and without some Reinforcements is sent to this County soon from some of our neighbouring Countys its not probable the little Forts we have at Freeland's & Boons can stand long, suppose I never see the People of this County behave more spirited then they do at present, suppose Reduced to a few, I have Just arrived after being on a Scout along Muncy Hill & we made a great Discovery where the Savages had been along the Frontiers & taken off a number of Horses.

I am

Dear S^r, your

most Humb'l Serv^t

SAM'L HUNTER.*

P. S. We are scarce of ammunition Especially Lead there is none.

Directed,

To Col^o Mathew Smith.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 62.

JOHN VANCAMPEN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Honored Sr,

It is with Distress of mind I Repeat Writing to your Exelency in Confirmation to what I mentioned to your Exelency yesterday by Capt. Shrawder it is Now an Undoubted case with me that this Operation will be as it seems to appeare by Butlers Orders to Capt. Caldwell.

By Express this morning we are informed The Enemy are Legally Encamped at Willes mill and Grinding all the grain that was in the Mill and What they can collect in Defiance of all the Forces that can be collected at present. They have yesterday takeing three Prisoners in Jersey, and Killed 20 head of Horned Cattle and all The Horses of Morgan Desheay in Pennsylvania, The Entilligence by Express will Acompanie This my letter to your Exelency, I have no Farther Doubt unless Speedy Relief by Additions to all the Small Forces we can Collect we will not be able to Relieve the poor people that are Fled into Forts For the Perservation of their Lives.

There seems at Present no Prospect but Distress and Distraction in this part of this Cuntry, it Seems to appeare that the object of the Enemy is as much Designed against Jersey as pennsylvania.

I could wish to have the State of the Operation of the Enemy sent to me Qualified to Capt. Hover our Informer is a man of undoubted Carreter.

I Entend this afternoon to Set of to See and learn the movement of Enemy, if any Farther Intelligence Properly Aserted by Quallification.

I have the Honor

Sr, to be your

Exellencys most

obb^t Hum^l. Serv^t,

JOHN VANCAMPEN.*

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Pres^t Ph^{la}.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XII., p. 62, this letter has no date but from the reference to a former one is probably 23d July.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Just arrived a deserter from the 33^d who left Verplanks point two days before Gen. Waynes attack on Stony point: He says the enemy have made an abbatis across the point defended by some block houses & a large stone house. The troops there were the 33^d loyal Americans & Capt. Fergusons company of Rifle men & 6 pieces of Cannon. No ships of force then there but a sloop of war & some row gallies: suppose the 33 to be between 3 & 4 hundred strong, the Company he belonged to was 32 duty men. Two others deserted with him.

Permit me to assure your Excellency that,

I am with respect,

Sir, your most

obedient Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

July 24th, 1779.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Five natives of Virginia deserters from the English have been with me and give the following account.

When the English were in Virginia they had parties on the recruiting service, which by threats compelled 21 to enlist, most if not all in the Legion of whom 12 including the present five have deserted.

They left the enemy consisting of the Legion, Rangers, 17th Dragoons & some infantry, the 12th Inst at Marronneck. Sunday 11th Bedford was burned besides several houses on the road, the men plundering every thing they can carry off, about two weeks before they deserted a party went to Pounds ridge, whose behaviour is mentioned in the inclosed affidavit.

Tho' they did not desert 'till Monday evening they did not hear of North Castle or saw pitts being burned that day, are all ignorant of the orders mentioned in summers's information, as also of the man burned, and fruit trees cut down.

When enlisted were promised 3 guineas a man but received neither bounty or pay but were clothed as soon as they got to New York.

Desertion very great, not a day passing but some got off Heard of

the 5 deserters put to death, as mentioned by Summers, but do not know what number deserted that day.

While the above five were under examination, four more came, viz 3 Europeans from different English regiments, & one an American from Emericks.

They deserted on the march between East Chester and Horseneck about two weeks since, the Army then consisting of about 5000 men under the command of Gen. Clinton—two were obliged to conceal themselves in the woods till the English had marched off, then passed by Bedford, which was in ashes, one house excepted, heard the English had burned some houses at North Castle.

Permit me to assure you that I am,

Your Excellencys

most obedient Servt,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

July 24th, 1779.

P. S. Looking over the above I find I have omitted the following particulars, on the expedition to Pound ridge 16 prisoners were taken 8 light horsemen & 8 militia, also a fine stand of Colours fringed round with silver, this I suppose must have been the standard of the Light horse taken in the house were they were surprised. The Gentlemans house burned was near the meeting house, informants cannot assign any excuse for killing the three men but heard it was insolent answers given to questions asked.

Directed.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

Philadelphia.

July 24th, 1779, Thomas Portlock came before me, one of the Justices of the peace for the City of Philadelphia & voluntarily made Oath that about a month since he was on a party from the English forces, then lying about five miles from Philips meadow, to a place called Pound ridge when they burned the meeting-house, & on their return several other houses particularly a gentlemans in which three men were killed. He passed by a New England Light Horse man cut and mangled in a most shocking manner who complained his back was broken & he was unable to stand, informant afterwards heard he had been entirely stripped by the Yaugers, several other Houses would have been burned but for the interposition of Majr Cauphan of the Legion, who preserved as many as he could, & further saith not.

THOMAS PORTLOCK.

Sworn before me,

JNO. ORD.

VOL. VII.—25

PREST. REED TO LT. JOHN PIPER, 1779.

In Council, Philada., July 24th, 1779.

Sir,

The letter of which the enclosed is an Extract has been laid before this Board, & as this is the first Information we have had of any Late Ravages of the Indians it has given us much Concern & Surprise. We trusted the Inhabitants of your County were fully apprized of the Measures we took for their Relief as early as last March. Either Help must be drawn from the County itself or its Neighbours—if the Militia Laws are supported & rigorously executed there can be no Doubt but a County would find in itself very powerful Resources against Danger & Destruction, but if Officers are harassed by Suits, Replevins issued when the Fines are imposed, & every Step taken to harass & oppose those who are acting to the best of their Judgment & Ability under the Laws of the State, the Consequences will undoubtedly be ruinous to the County—nor will their Neighbours be disposed to assist them when they see them wanting to themselves. We hope these Remarks are not applicable to the County of Bedford, and that this Board might show the fullest attention to them we ord^d 125 Men, properly officered, to march from York & Lancaster to cover the Inhabitants of Bedford during their Seed Time & Harvest. Why those Counties did not obey the Orders will be a proper Subject of Inquiry by the Members of Assembly. We are by no Means satisfied with the Reasons we have heard, but are fully conscious that nothing was omitted by us either in Time or Circumstance to give the desired Relief. To repeat our Order will we apprehend be quite unnecessary as we do not know that greater Regard will be paid to the 2^d than the first. We hoped that as long as Capt. Cluggages Company stayed in the County, & we understand it is yet there, it would have afforded the Inhabitants some Assistance. On the Representation of Mr. Smith, Member of Assembly, that the Townships of Air & Bethel could from their Situation give Assistance to others less exposed, we passed the inclosed Resolution, which was forwarded to Mr. Martin, one of your Sub-Lieutenants, who, we were informed lived at such Distance from you that in an Emergencie there would not be time to send to you, & therefore in such Case gave him Authority to act himself. If any other Use has been made of it it has been contrary to our Intention, as it is our earnest Wish that all publick Business should be conducted in its proper Line & in regular Channels.—And we beg you & every other Gentleman acting in publick Authority to be assured that this Board will upon all Occasions support the Officers of Governmt in the faithful Discharge of their Duty ag^t any Opposition, either by vexatious Suits in Law or of any other Kind; as they we trust will endeavour so to act as to afford as little just

Cause of Complaint as possible. If there are any Supplies necessary for your County we desire you will acquaint us, as the Intimation that your County is pointed out for Destruction appears to us to have proceeded rather from Mistake than otherwise.

I am Sir, your obed.

& very Hbble. servt.

PRESIDENT REED TO COLONEL WETZEL, 1779.

Sir,

Yours of the 22d Inst.* was duly received, & your Request immediately complied with,—Mr. Houghenbireh having rec^d 200^{lb} of Powder & 800^{wt} of Lead, for which he will stand accountable to you. The unexpected Incursion has given us great Concern, but as we hope there will be sufficient Vigor & Spirit in the Inhabitants to repel those Wretches, who cannot be sufficiently numerous or terrible to require more Resistance than the People can give. We desire you in particular to give all necessary Directions & Aid—assuring you that nothing shall be wanting on our Parts to support & supply you.

I am Sir,

Your obed. Hbbl. Servt.

July 24, 1779.

Directed,

To Col. Wetzel, Lient. of Northampton.

COMMERC'L COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Commercial Committee, 24th July, 1779.

Sir,

The Committee appointed by Congress to superintend the Commissary of Provisions Department informed this Committee that there is at present on hand in the Public Magazines, Pork, Beef and Flour in greater quantities than the armies can consume before it will become perishable. It is therefore recommended by the Commissarial Committee, with the concurrence of the Minister of

* See page 572.

France, that the Commercial Committee immediately issue their order for shipping to the Island of St. Domingo two thousand Barrels of Pork, one thousand Barrels of Beef, and one thousand Barrels of Flour, for the supplying His most Christian Majesty's forces on that Island, the Minister having promised that the same shall be paid for at the Market Prices there.

We therefore request your Excellency's permission for shipping the above mentioned quantity for the purposes aforesaid.

We are respectfully

your Excellency's most

Obedient & Humble Servants,

(Signed by order,)

FRAS. LEWIS.*

Directed,

His Excellency the President in Council, Pennsylvania.

PRES. REED TO MR. HOLKER, 1779.

In Council, Philadelphia, July 24th, 1779.

Sir,

After the Visit you favoured me with yesterday & Consideration of the Points on which we conversed I wrote the Letter inclosed & about 6 o'clock the Answer also inclosed was delivered me. I informed the Gentlemen that I had seen you that Morning that you conceived yourself able to remove the Imputations conveyed in their Representation & had requested the Council to point out the Parts of your Conduct on which Doubts might arise. The Gentlemen promised me they would inform the other Gentlemen what I had represented & also that I still thought there would be an Impropriety in making the Publication in the present Circumstances. I observe this Morning that the Gentlemen have been of a different Opinion doubtless deeming themselves under a publick Obligation to communicate the Transaction to the World without Delay.†

I have the Honour to be

Sir, You most obed.

Hbble. Ser.

P. S. Not having any Copies of the inclosed must beg you to return them after Perusal.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII, pp. 59, 61.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII, p. 59—61, 68.

COL. FRANCIS JOHNSTON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

May it please your Excell'y,

Since the brilliant affair of General Wayne at Stony Point, nothing of consequence has turn'd up. Our whole Army is now at and within the vicinity of West Point, busily employ'd in erecting Batteries, Redoubts, &c., &c., so that the top of each fair Eminence w^h not long since amas'd the sight with a delightful exhibition of Trees, is now become the seat of War—the Enemy are as busily employ'd in repairing their old works at Stony point, & compleating their new ones on the opposite side of the River, so that it is impossible for me to convey to your Excell^y the most distant Idea how our future operations will tend the ensuing Campaign.

Had we been fortunate enough to have succeeded against Verplank's point, on the opposite side of the River, at the time of General Wayne's assault on Stony Point, I should not have hesitated in giving you a decisive opinion respecting the Events of the present year—certain I am that the loss of the Enemies Works on the opposite side of the River, wou'd either have terminated in the total loss of their Army, or at least have render'd the Campaign very easy—this consequence likewise wou'd have flow'd from it—the Reduction of N. York previous to the arrival of a Reinforcement.

I beg leave to inform your Excell^y that tho' we are not often favor'd with intelligence from the Southward, yet we lately obtain'd a sight of a Penn^a Paper, in which we observ'd a piece, the signature of which was a Citizen of Philad^a, wherein the author discovers a real attachment to his Country, by his manly, generous & judicious animadversions on the situation of the officers of the Army, & by his ardent desire to reward their unwearied endeavors in the cause of Liberty—various are the conjectures about the supposed Author, for my own part I cannot conceive myself at any great loss to find him out, as I have the honor to be personally acquainted with your Excell^y abilities, as well as your uniform desire of doing justice to the Army.

And as I am now upon the subject of the Army, I shall take the liberty of conveying you my sentiments thereon. Your Excell^y may rest assured that nothing less than half pay for life will satisfy the officers—I am warrant'd in saying this, having repeatedly heard the sentiments of the most respectable part of them—this, Sir, is what they expect, what they think their perseverance under every difficulty in y^e worst of times, & their services merit, and what I am confident they will insist on, & that too unfettered by any Laws of their respective States abridging their *Rights or Privileges* as Citizens, for we all unanimously agree in this, that that no inducement however lucrative, should court our longer continuance in the Field,

cou'd we believe our Countrymen so base as to aim at the destruction of our *Civil Rights*. Rights for which we have fought & bled, & *Rights* which we are determined to hand down unsullied to Posterity.

Under the auspicious administration of Your Excell^y this I write without the least tincture of adulation, your officers & men have a well grounded prospect of a speedy redress of every grievance to which the changes of the times or the calamities of War may subject them, & entertain no doubts but they will meet with that compensation w^h their past & future services may claim at the end of the War. What your Excell^y has already done for us is a sufficient proof of this.

I beg leave to inform your Excellency that we have not yet had the pleasure of seeing any Law of the State, ratifying the Resolve of the Honble House respecting our half pay for Life, & that such a Law wou'd yield us infinite satisfaction—this by no means proceeds from a want of confidence in the plighted faith of our State, but merely from this principle—as we have sacrificed our time, our little Estates & our Health (the most valuable of blessings) in the defence of our Country, we would willingly convince our families of the propriety of our longer continuance in the service, by showing them the liberal but just and permanent provision we shall enjoy when we shall again assume the Character of the peaceful Citizen.

It has been reported, not long since, that Col. Atlee proposes coming into our Line again; shou'd this report be true, there is not a Command^r officer of a Regiment from the State, or I am much mistaken, who will willingly submit to it. The Colonel's being a Member of Congress, we apprehend, is alone a powerful reason against his readmission into the Line, indeed it wou'd be in direct opposition to the very Rules of Congress, as well as the Laws of the State, if I am rightly instructed—& had Col. Atlee seriously entertained such an intention I should have thought he wou'd not have suffered two vacancies to be fill'd without a single objection or an application for them. I wou'd add farther, that when I was appointed Comm^r Gen^l of Prisoners by the Honble Congress, I made an application to them for leave to retain my rank in the Line, while I perform'd the Duty of Comm^r of Prisoners, having expectations of recovering my health in the course of a few months, which at that time was much impaired in the service, & then returning to my Duty in the Field, this requisition was denied me, tho I had His Excell^y General Washington's sanction for it, merely on this principle—that no officer in the Army shou'd hold any other Post.

I shou'd not have troubled your Excell^y thus far on this subject, as I am not immediately interested in the matter myself, but my Duty & love of harmony induced me to write you my sentiments on this occasion, being well assured that an introduction of Colonel Atlee again into the Line of the State, wou'd introduce discontent & new disorders. The officers would esteem themselves honor'd by a Line

from your Excell^y on this head, w^h will prevent a Remembrance
from being presented.

I have the honor to be
your Excellen^c
most ob^t Serv^t,

F. JOHNSTON.

Camp, West Point, July 25, '79.

Directed,

His Excell^y Joseph Reed, Esquire, Philadelphia.

79 Capt^r Zeigler.

GEN. ST. CLAIR TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

West Point, July 25th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 15th by Mr Broadhead came to Hand two Days ago. All the attention shall be paid to his Case that is possible and if he can be admitted again into the Line, without raising new Disturbances, it will be very agreeable to me. It was not owing to his being a Prisoner that he was left out, but to an opinion that prevailed that he had laid aside all Thoughts of the Army, and meant to follow a mercantile Life, in which it was confidently asserted he was engaged, in that Way, the most obnoxious to the officers, known by the Name of Speculation. Justice and not Favour, I hope will ever govern the Determination of the Officers, when called upon to decide on the Rights of each other, and I can assure you there does not appear the smallest Disposition to add Injury to the Misfortunes of those who have been Prisoners, at the same time it is a pretty general Sentiment, that the bringing the Officers who were taken at Fort Washington into the Regiments they then belonged to is a very great hardship upon the Officers now of those Regiments—The Places of those Gentlemen having been filled up by the Council of Safety, and the Regiments now raised—nothing of the old ones remaining but the Number, and in some Cases a few of the principall officers for whom Vacancys were kept open.

I am sorry to remark that in the Accounts of the Monies advanced for the recruiting Service in the last Transmission as well as the others, the largest sums are in the Hands of Gentlemen who are not now in service, which will encrease the Difficulky of closing the Accounts however, as far as they have come to my Hands they are

nearly stated and in a few Days shall be transmitted to the Council. Mr Matlack did send an Account, besides the first, which came to hand.

It gives me much Pleasure to see that you have taken up a Subject to which you can do so much Justice, and I do for myself and the rest of the officers offer you our sincere and hearty Thanks for your very elegant address to the public in the Character of a Citizen of Philadelphia, which cannot fail to make Impressions favourable to the Plan you are about to propose, as it has added to the grateful sense the officers have of your Attention to their Interests. It is a Matter I have long wished to see some Person of Capacity and Influence undertake, as the Situation of the officers especially those who have Families, which is the Case with a Number, from the exorbitant Prices of every Necessary of Life, and the depreciated state of the Money is truly deplorable—for my own Part it will be impossible for me to continue in the Service without reducing mine to Beggary, as I have already spent all the Money I had been able to get before-hand, and have lost upwards of twenty Thousand Pounds by the Money in which I was paid for my Farm which my absence from, obliged me to dispose of.

Many of our Regiments are very weak and in the Course of this Campaign will dwindle down to nothing and the Means of recruiting them grows every Day more difficult. The People of Virginia, I am told, raised their last Recruits, to the amount of two Thousand by taxing the several Battallions of Militia with a certain number of Men, in proportion to their several strength, to be ready at a fixed Day, and in case of Failure they were then to be draughted from them by Lott, leaving it to the Battallions to make what Terms they pleased with the Individuals who might be willing to engage—It succeeded—The fear of being draughted and thereby missing the proffered Reward, acting upon the lower Class, and the same Fear of the Lott falling upon them, prompting those in easy circumstances to make the offered Reward very considerable—Would not some such Scheme succeed with Us too—the seventy five Dollars allowed by Congress to recruiting officers might also be applied to this Purpose—this is however a very indigested Hint. The Demands upon Us for Waggoners likewise weakens us very much—there are so many Men lost in time of action, and are generally lost for good and All at the close of the Campaign—These I think might possibly be got from the Militia—their Pay is considerable and the Service easy.

It is with great Pleasure that I inform you the Uneasiness that prevailed amongst the Soldiery with respect to the Time they stood engaged for is at an End. The present of one hundred Dollars, made by Congress to those who were engaged prior to January last came most opportunely, and was made so good use of, that the whole very nearly, have accepted it; signing at the same time an acknowledgment that they were enlisted during the War; so that I have the

strongest Hopes we shall be no more troubled with Meetings, Combinations and Desertions, which had risen to a very alarming height and threatened very serious Consequences.

This will be delivered by Cap^t Zeigler who goes for a farther Supply, a small Guard is necessary for an escort, but, as we know not how soon all the Men we have may be wanted, I have sent him without one, trusting that a few of the Invalids may be sent up with him, who would answer the purpose perfectly well, and save so many Men from the Line. Some of them might also serve as Scale Men and Assistants to the Commissarys which we are likewise obliged to furnish, and which takes from Us some of our best Serjeants.

The Reduction of the Post at Stony Point you have received an Account of. It was a very gallant well conducted Enterprize, and reflects great Honour upon General Wayne, and all the officers, both for the Vigour with which it was executed, and the Humanity and Generosity the Prisoners were treated with—There is not an Instance of a Place carried by Assault where so few of the Defendants have been put to Death. My Friend Colonel Butler commanded one of the Attacks, and distinguished himself. The Enemy have again taken Post there, but not, I think with Intention to hold it, but the better to cover the Evacuation of the Post on the opposite Shore they will probably soon abandon both.—Be that as it will they are certainly on the Eve of some important Movement, having drawn their whole Army down to Kings Bridge, and Dispositions are made, it is said, to evacuate New York.

Will you please to present my most respectful Compliments to the Ladies of your Family and believe me with much Respect and Esteem

Sir your most obedient

Humble Servant

A^c ST. CLAIR.

P. S. The officers make great Complaints against Farmer for the Quality of the West India Goods purchased by him, the Rum and Sugar particularly one Hhd. of the last was most certainly not merchantable, but I suppose it was cheap on that Account.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r.

WM. MACLAY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Paxton, July 26th, 1779.

Sir,

I am just returned from Sunbury ; The whole of the Troops have left that Place, a week ago, and I am satisfy'd That Genl. Sullivan will move forward with the Expedition perhaps this very day ; a more happy incident could not have happened than the rise of the Susquehannah, at this critical and unexpected Time ; notwithstanding some unlucky delays, my Hopes are now high, with respect to the Northern Expedition ; I must however leave this pleasing expectation, and say a Word or Two of the deplorable Situation of Northumberland County ; Stript of the whole of the standing Army, and without a single Man save the Militia of the County and 14 men under the Command of a Capt. Kamplin, and almost every Young Man on the Frontier engaged in the Boat Service ; they suffer more than ever, from the Savage Depredations of an horrid Enemy ; every thing above Muncy Hill, is abandoned ; a large Body of above forty Savages had penetrated as far as Freeland's Mills ; Freeland and Sundry others have fallen Victims to them ; They were still hovering about the Settlement, when I came away ; In short nothing seems wanting on their part But a proper degree of Spirit (and upon some occasions they have manifested enough of it) for to make one bold push for Sunbury, and destroy the Magazine which is now collecting there for the Support of the Army ; I have spoke to Col. Hunter for a guard, for the Magazine, But in Vain, He is not able to protect the Flying Inhabitants. The Stores at Sunbury are deposited in my late dwelling House, which is large and conveniently situated both for defense and the Reception and delivery of Stores ; The Back Part of it was stockaded last year by Col. Hartly ; a small expence would compleat the Stockade, & mount a few Swivels (several of which lie there dismounted) This and a very small Guard of Militia from Lancaster County, would render the Magazine secure.

Now my dear Sir, let me not receive for answer, that This or much of this is the Business of the Board of War, or ought, to engage the attention of Congress ; It is an object of Consequence ; Between Three and Four hundred Barrels of Flour, Sixty odd Barrels of Pork, and a large Quantity of Liquors are now forwarding, and at this place to be forwarded to Sunbury. It is expected that the march of our Army will recall the Savages to their own country. Were they left to their own natural Feelings, There is little Room to doubt But this would be the Case : But at present they are directed by British Counsels, and in many of their Expeditions com-

manded by British Officers; a different Line of Conduct may therefore be expected.

I will stay at this place until I hear from you, and whatever is to be done at Sunbury for the defense of the Magazine I am ready to engage in; I wish not to complain of any one nor would be understood so, I however know the wretched slothfulness of many who are engaged in the publick Departments; and would rather do a Peice of Business myself, than have the Trouble of calling on them.

My present application however cannot be considered either as impertinent or extra-official, as I have had the charge of the Magazine at Sunbury, for some Time Past.

I am Sir, with great Respect

your most Obed.

& most Hble. Serv^t,

WM. MACLAY.

Directed,

Publick Service, Timothy Matlack Esquire, Secretary to the Hon^{ble} Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

PRES. REED TO COM^y. GENERAL OF ISSUES, 1779.

Sir,

You will oblige me by letting Col. Bull have a few empty Hhds. to assist sinking the Chevaux de Frise which he will retain or replace as soon as possible. The Importance of this Service is too considerable especially since the Accounts from New York to permit me to doubt your Readiness to accommodate him.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hbble. Serv^t.

JOS. REED.

Indorsed.

July 27.

PRESIDENT REED TO THE MARINE COMMITTEE OF
CONGRESS, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, July 28th, 1799.

Sir,

I this day laid before the Council your application of the twenty-fourth Instant,* it being the first day the Board has met since it was received, and I now have the honour of communicating to you our sentiments thereupon. The Embargo laid in this state is by Act of Assembly, and is therefore not so much in our controul as if it had been by Proclamation. We have examined the act with due attention, and find there is a proviso admitting an Exportation for "the use of the Fleet of His most Christian Majesty, and of the Armies of the United States." Your application therefore setting forth that it is for the *armies* of His most Christian Majesty, and to be exported to an Island other than that where his fleet is assembled, has occasioned some difficulty. As it is our most earnest wish to yield a cheerful compliance with this, as well as every other request you may make, we should endeavour to do it on this occasion if the purpose could be so altered as to bring it within the terms of the Act.† And to facilitate this we transmit you an Extract of the Law that your Application may correspond therewith, & with which we shall immediately comply. But how far it is consistent with the rights & interests of the State of Pennsylvania, whose staple is flour, to have an Exportation of that article, for the benefit of the United States, when by the operation of the Embargo the value of the commodity, and the price is reduced within the state, may be a question. If no Embargo existed we grant the United States are as proper purchasers as any, but we have our doubts of the propriety of the measure in our present situation, and submit these doubts to your consideration. If the Committee think they can remove them, we have no objection to a conference our desires being to render every service to Congress consistent with our special duty to the state in particular. And as the Disappointment in the present Instance may be attended with some Inconvenience, we have concluded to give Permission for the present Quantity, it being understood that it be not made a Precedent for future Cases.

I have the honor to be,

With much esteem, Sir,

Your obedient hum. servant.

* Page 579.

† Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 59, 61.

COL. SAMUEL HUNTER TO COL. MATTHEW SMITH, 1779.

Sunbury, 28th July, 1779.

Dear Sir,

This Day, about twelve o'Clock, an Express arrived from Capt. Boon's mill, informing us that Freeland's Fort was surrounded by a party of Indians, and Immediately after that another Express came, informing that it was Burned and all the Garrison Either killed or taken prisoners; the party that went from Boon's See a Number of Indians & some Red Coats walking Round the Fort (or where it had been) after that there was a firing heard off towards Chilisquake, which makes us believe that the Savages is numerous, and partys is going off from this Town & Northumb^a to y^e Relief of the Garrison at Boon's, as there is a number of Women and Children; there was at Freeland's Fort fifty Women and Children, and about thirty men and God knows what is become of them; by this you may know our Distress'd Situation at this present time. General Sullivan would send us no Assistance, and our Neighbouring Countys has lost the Virtue they were once Possessed of, or otherwise we would had some Relief before this time; this I write in a Confused manner, as I am Just marching of up the West Branch, with the party we have Collected.

I am, D^r S^r, your Humble Serv^t,

SAML. HUNTER.

N. B. Rouse ye inhabitants there or we are all Ruined here.—
S. H.

Directed,

To Col. Mathew Smith, Paxton.

To be forwarded by Doctor Francis Allison by Express.

FRANCIS ALLISON, JR., TO PRES. REED, 1779.

D^r Sir,

At the particular Request of Col. Hunter, I inform you that Freeland's Fort, the most advanced Post on the frontiers of the west Branch, had on Wednesday last three of the Garrison killed & scalped, (one only shot) within sixty Yards of the fort, & two made prisoners; their Number of Indians appeared to be upwards of thirty in the open View of the Garrison. Relief was sent immediately from Boon's Fort & the two Towns, & additional force was left

behind to y^e assistance, notwithstanding which, they attacked them this morning, & by Intelligence received from persons of credit, sent out as spies, they had surrounded the fort, were walking carelessly around it, & the Gates were thrown open. This Account arrived by Express from Maj. Smith at twelve o'clock, since when Mr. Trigg, sent by Cap^t Nelson, informs y^e other spies had seen The Forts and Barns in Ashes, the mill still standing, & the Indians appeared very numerous, among whom were some Red Coats, supposed to be Regulars—that thirty-four men had turned out from Boon's Fort, to Relieve Freeland's Fort, of whom there is not the least intelligence.

The Garrison of Freeland F. consisted of thirty-two men, fourteen of whom were nine months men, & had in it upwards of forty women & Children. The situation of this County is truly alarming, & deplorable to the last degree. The Continental Garrisons formerly posted here are all drawn off, except a serj^t Guard, & by accounts received very late last Night from Wioming, they need not expect any Protection from *Gen. Sullivan*, "he seems quite regardless of the melancholy Situation of these unhappy people." If any Relief can possibly be afforded it should be given instantly, otherwise the Towns of Northumberland & Sunbury must be the Barriers.

I am, in great esteem,

y^e very humble Serv.,

FRA. ALLISON, Jr.

Sunbury, July 28th, '79.

Comp^d to M^{rs} Elder, to Rev^d M^r Elder & Family.

Excuse haste.

N. B. We have just heard y^e Cap^t Boon is killed.

Directed,

Express.

To Col. Joshua Elder, Sub Lieutenant Lancaster Co.

COL. SAML. HUNTER TO WILLIAM MACLAY, 1779.

Sunbury, 29th July, 1779.

Dear Sir,

Yesterday Morning, Early, there was a party of Indians & Regular Troops Attacked Fort Freeland; the Firing was heard at Boon's place, when a party of Thirty men turned out from that under the Command of Cap^t Boon, but, before he Arrived at Fort Freeland the Garrison had Surrendered, and the British Troops and Savages was paraded Round the Prisoners, & the Fort & Houses adjacent set on fire. Cap^t Boon and his party fired briskly on y^e Enemy, but was soon Surrounded by a large party of Indians; there was thirteen Killed of our People

and Capt Boon himself among the Slain. The Regular Officer that Commanded was the name of McDonald; he let the Women and Children go after having them a Considerable time in Custody. The Town of Northumberland was the Frontier last night, and I am afraid Sunbury will be this night. Is there any Possibility of getting some Assistance from your County? If it was but to meet the poor Women and Children on their Road down the Country. You may easily form an Idea of our Distress by what you see last Year, but this is a Great deal Worse, as there is no Relief from any Quarter. There was about three Hundred of y^e Enemy, & the one third of them was white men, as the Prisoners informs us, that made their Escape.

I am D^r Sr,

your most Humb^l Serv^t,

SAM^L HUNTER.

N. B. It must be Butler's party.

Sr,

Please write Council by Express on Rec^d of this, as it may be depended upon, & do all you can for your poor distressed County.

S. H.

—Please to forward the inclosed to my Brother.

Directed,

William Maclay, Esq^r, $\$$ William Harris, Express, Paxton.

JOHN BUYERS TO WM. MACLAY, 1779.

Sunbury, July 29th, 1779.

Dear Sir,

Our situation at this time is very alarming, yesterday Morning freeland's fort was attacked by Not less than 800 british troops & Indians they acted on the defensive as long as they could well but found it impractable to hold out any longer after the Eneymay had sent in three flags desiring them to surrender the Last Mentioning if they did not they would put them to the sword every one, the officer Who commanded the garison Capitulated on thes terms, viz., that the men should be prisoners of warr, the women & Children were to go down to the town Nm^d & Sunbury unmolested, the whole killed in the fort was four men, Capt. boon who went out for their Relief fall in with the Enemy Capt. Kompeton who observed the first Indian on guard shot him dead on the Spot then a party Ralyed out of the mill and defated bon's Company, killed boon, Capt. doharty,

Capt. Hamilton & all the Rest or took of the party only 13 escaped North⁴ is now the frunteer you may judge of our Situation my family is just as you left them, our store is Near empty beef salt & fresh is out here your Care in this is Necessary & your influence to get us aid—we do not finde that there was more than eight or ten of the Enemy killed, Except of my uncorrect Letter don in haste.

& My best wishes

JNO. BUYERS.

Directed,

On publick Service.

Mr. Wm. Maclay, A. C. P., Paxton.

With all pesable Speed.

FRANCIS ALISON JR., TO COL. JOSHUA ELDER, 1779,

Sr,

Since mine of the 28th we have received particular Instructions from Ft. Freeland, by women who had been in the Fort—They say the garrison Surrendered after making a noble but short resistance, & after being thrice summoned; they Capitulated in form the Copy of it has not yet come to hand. Of the Garrison four were killed, & thirteen Scalpes were brought into the fort in a Pocket Handkerchief amongst whome were Capt. Boone & Dougherty's supposed to belong to the party from Boones Fort w^{ch} attacked the British, Indians &c., & even got in among the people who were prisoners with them, but were obliged to fly on acc^t of superiority of numbers, 13 or 14 of y^e party have come in; they & the women of F. F., estimate the number of the Enemy at between 3 & 4 hundred, one third of whom are Regular Troops. Boones F., is evacuated & Northumberland Town is already the Frontier—Hurry if possible all the assistance possible with utmost haste, or else the Consequences on our side will be dreadful.

I am Sr &c.,

FRANCIS ALISON, Jr.

Sunbury, July 29, 79.

The Commanding officer is said to be a Capt. McDonald who intimated to the women y^t a party was still in the rear.

Directed,

Express.

Col Joshua Elder, Sub Lutenant Lancaster Co.

WM. MACLAY TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Paxton, July 30th, 1779.

Sir,

The worst that we can fear for Northumberland County is like to happen. Early on the 28th The Fort at Freeland's mill was invested by about 100 British Regulars and 200 Indians under the command of an officer of the name of McDonald—They defended themselves for some Time, were three times summoned to surrender, a Capitulation was agreed on, the men Prisoners of war, the Women and Children leave to go to the Towns of Northumberland and Sunbury & we know not with certainty how these Terms have been observed, Capt. Boon on hearing the Firing advanced to the Relief of Fort Freeland, with thirty men, his defeat was the consequence, himself and many more killed. The Situation of Northumberland County, beyond description distressing, not a single Inhabitant north of Northumberland Town—These Facts ascertained by Letters from Col. Hunter, Doct Alison and others by express this moment arrived No Expectation of Relief from Gen. Sullivan; the last accounts mention his being to march on Monday last.

I need not ask you what is to be done, Help Help; or the Towns of Sunbury and Northumberland must fall; our whole Frontier laid open, and the Communication with Gen. Sullivan's army is cut off.

I am in the utmost Haste,

with great Respect,

y^r most obed^t Serv^t,

WM. MACLAY.

Directed.

Publick Service.

Timothy Matlack, Esq., Secretary to the Hon^{ble} Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

MAJ. GEN. SULLIVAN TO COL. JOHN COOK, 1779.

Head Quarters, July 30th, 1779.

Sir,

Nothing Could afford me more pleasure than to Relieve the Distress'd, or to have it in my Power to add to the Safety of your Settlement, but should I Comply with the Requisition made by you it would Effectually answer the Intention of the Enemy, and Destroy the Grand Object of this Expedition. To morrow the Army moves from this place and by Carrying the war Immediately into the Indian Country, it will most Certainly Draw them out of yours.

For your present Safety I must refer you to the Council of your State for assistance, Certainly it will be granted without much inconvenience as the State has neglected to furnish the Troops promis'd for this Expedition.

I am Sir,

your mo. ob^t

h'bbe Serv^t

JNO. SULLIVAN.

A True Copy by Matt^r Smith.

Directed,

On public service.

To Colo. Jno. Cook, D. Q. M. G., Northumberland.

MAJ. GEN. SULLIVAN TO COL. SAM'L HUNTER, 1779.

Head Quarters Wyoming,

July y^e 30th, 1779.

Sir,

Your letter Dated the 28th Ins^t I rece'd this Day, with the Disagreeable intelligence of the loss of Fort Freeland, your situation in Consequence must be unhappy, I feel for you, and could wish to assist you, but the good of the service will not admit of it, The Object of this Expedition is of such a nature, and its Consequences so Extensive that to turn the course of this Army would be unwise, unsafe & impolitic.

Nothing can so Effectually draw the indians out of your Country, as Carrying the War into theirs, Tomorrow morning I shall march with the Whole Army for Tioga, and must leave you to call upon the Council of your State for such assistance as may serve to Relieve you from your present perilous situation. As Pennsylvania has neglected to furnish me with the Troops promised for this Expedition, she Certainly will be enabled to defend her Frontiers without much inconvenience.

I am Sir,

your mos. ob^t

Humb^r Serv^t

JOHN SULLIVAN.

P. S. The above is a true Copy of major General Sullivan's letter to me.

SAM'L HUNTER.

Addition to the foregoing, by Col. Smith.

The above is a Copy of a letter to Col. Hunter in answer to one of the 28th, but nothing would be Done, indeed the General seems to have had it in View from his first Arrival at Wyoming to have the County Reduced to what it now is. It appears however in several instances he is no friend to this State, the Evacuation of fort Wallace & Drawing all the men from the Frontiers 5 or 6 weeks before he March^d, in my Opinion speaks very plain, the People of this County is petitioning in very Strong terms, & will Request a hearing against the Gen^l.

I am^r Sir,

yours &c,

MATT^w SMITH.

Not directed.

PRESIDENT REED TO MONS. GERARD, 1779.

In Council,

P^a, July 30th, 1779.

Sir,

I hope you will be so obliging as to excuse my not acknowledging your Favour of the 28 Inst. at an earlier Hour when I acquaint you that I did not receive it till Monday Evening at German Town, the next Day I laid it before the Council & have ever since been so indisposed as to be confined to my Chamber. But I take the first Moment of Health to assure you that the Importance of its Contents shall have the most serious Attention, & I trust that upon this as well as every other Occasion the Veneration & Regard due to his most Christian Majesty, & the Rights Honour & Interest of his Officers, & the personal Respect so justly due to you in particular, will be manifested by the State of Pennsylvania. I have the Honor to be with every Sentiment of Respect & Esteem,

Sir,

your most obed.

& very Hbble Serv.*

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII, p. 60.

COL. ADAM HUBLEY TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Wyoming, in Penn^a, July 30^a, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favour ^PCapt. Buck.—I take this opportunity of sincerely thanking your Excellency for your kind & good wishes towards my Regiment—I shall rest satisfy'd, that, that attention to my Regiment so generously promis'd by your Excellency will be in the fullest comply'd with.

When I wrote you last, I was in hopes the Frontiers on the Western branch would be in perfect security,—but a letter from that quarter which arriv'd last evening, informs me otherwise. A party of British & Savages, under the command of a Capt. McDonald, has kill'd & taken a party of men stationed at Fort Freeling, and committed other cruel acts,—amongst the slain its said is Captains Boone & Camplan—They are taking and destroying every thing before them,—some Accounts say they are pushing for Northumberland. As no troops from here are ordered down to oppose them, I fear the consequences. The Commander in chief for this department is disposed to judge that the Enemy think by this manœuvre, and that performed by Brand at the Minesinks, to draw his attention that way, he is determin'd at all events to keep his Army compact and close, and march immediately up the river for the Seneca country—It may probably have the desired effect. In my humble opinion, I think it would answer an exceeding good end if a detachment of 500 men from this Army were detach'd and sent on the Western branch, as they would have it in their power effectually to scour that country, and be at Tioga nearly as soon as the main body—this would have given relieve to the poor Inhabitants, and would by no means have delay'd the expedition.

I dont mean by giving my opinion so freely, to throw the least reflection on the Commander,—I'm confident he acts from pure principals, and for the good of the public in general, no Man can be more vigilant & assiduous, I sincerely wish his labours may be crown'd with laurels.

In my last I think I mentioned some acct we had receiv'd of 800 Indians & British, which we expected to harrass our march between this & Tioga. Those parties which have made their appearance near Minesinks & West branch of the Susquehanah, its supposed compose that party. Its probable on our moving into the Indian Country, they may retire and join their main body.

To morrow morning we march, and I'm sorry to say, exceedingly ill provided to carry thro' this extensive expedition.

The same unparallel'd conduct of those employed in supplying this Army, seems still to exist. I hope to see the day when the delinquents will be brought to proper punishment.

You have before this received the Arrangement of my Regiment, mutually agreed to & settled by the whole of the officers of the same.

I hope it has met with your Excellencies and the Hon^l Councils approbation. I would esteem it a most particular favour if the Commissions for the officers would be forwarded by the first opportunity.

Mr. Samuel Reed (a native & lover of Penn^a) now acting as an Ensign in my Reg^t by virtue of a Gen^l Order dated July 28th, is desirous of being Commissioned as such, and requests I would recommend him to your Excellency & the Hon. the Council, for that purpose. The good character which I have of him, besides his genteel & agreeable conduct & behaviour, whilst a Volunteer in the Regiment, particularly meritts notice.

I would therefore beg your Excellencies interest for that purpose, and make no doubt he will do honour to the appointment.

I am with the greatest sincerity,

your Excel^{ty} most ob^t hum. Serv.

AD^m HUBLEY,

Lt. Colo. Com. 11th R^t.

My Reg^t I fear will be almost totally naked before we can possibly return.—I have scarcely a coat or blanket for every seventh man. The State Stores are all issued, & delivered to the Reg^t.

WILLIAM MACLAY TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Paxton, July 30th, 1779.

Sir,

I wrote to you about an Hour ago, But for fear of Accidents write again. A Body of one hundred Regulars and Two hundred Indians, have fallen in the Rear of Gen. Sullivan's Army; They attacked Freeland's Fort the 28th; a Defense was made for some time, articles of Surrender offered, and at last accepted. Boon hearing the Firing, came from his Fort about this Time, with thirty Men, attacked, was beaten, and lost his Life. The Enemy are commanded by a British Officer, of the name of M^cDonald. I gave Col. Hunter's Letter, which I just now rec^d by Express, to Mr. Elder, one of the Sub Lieutenants, and therefore cannot enclose it to you, as I otherwise would. Col. Hunter writes That Northumberland Town was the Frontier the night before last. The Distress of the Flying Inhabitants great beyond Description. The Design of the Enemy supposed to be the Possession of the Towns of Sunbury and Northumberland, and of the Stores to be found there—and of Course

cutting off the Communication with Gen. Sullivan's army. It is even said That another Body of the Enemy are following M'Donald. I need say nothing more, the occasion of support is to the last degree pressing, am in the utmost Haste, with great Respect, y^r most obed^t & very H^bble Servt.,

WM. MACLAY.

Directed,

Publick Service.

To Timothy Matlack, Esq., Secretary to the Hon^{ble} executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Y^e favour of Captⁿ Burns.

WILLIAM MACLAY TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Paxton, 30th July, 1779.

Sir,

I have wrote to you twice of this date before the present Letter ; I now inclose a number of Letters rec'd from Col. Hunter and others in Northumberland County, by which you will easily see the deplorable Situation they are reduced to. I will go up to morrow to Carlisle and endeavour to prevail on the artificers who are embodied at that place to march immediately to Sunbury. It is likely I may be refused—could not Council do something in such a Business? I am told it is part of their engagement to do military Duty when necessary. Several Volunteers have promised to march for Sunbury—we look up to Council for their most strenuous exertions in our Favour.

I am, Sir, with greatest Respect,

Y^r most obed. & most H^bble Serv^t,

WM. MACLAY.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esq.,* Secretary to the Hon^{ble} Council, Phila.

* See preceding pages.

WILLIAM CHESNEY, AGENT OF YORK CO., TO PRESIDENT
REED, 1779.

York County, 3d July, 1779.

May it please your Excellency,

Permit me to acquaint your Excellency of our Situation in this place as to Agents appointed for Confiscated Estates. No person that was appointed Ever took the oath Directed or Served but three, viz., Robert Stevenson, Esq., James Nailor, Esq., and myself; one of which is Dead; Mr. Nailor is Sick, I think unto Death, and I have been in a bad State of health this Long time, unable to Ride out, though frequently Insulted by the Disaffected friends, and Dared to Do our Duty, therefore I request your Excellency to appoint some other to assist me. I would Begg leave to Recommend William Mitchell, Esq., as a fitt person, I expect he will serve, and assist me with Resolution. I know no other of my Acquaintance, accept major James Dill, perhaps Both would be Necessary, the Sooner the appointment the Better. I have the Honor of Being your Excellency's Obedt. Hum^e Servant,

WILLIAM CHESNEY.*

To his Excelor, Joseph Reed.

PRES. REED TO WILLIAM HENRY CHAIRMAN &C., 1779.

July 30th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Your Memorial of the Inst. has been duly laid before this Board. Since which M^r Holker has in the most explicit Terms assured us that the Flour in Question & which is now in your Hands was actually purchased for the Use of his most Christian Majesty. Wherefore as we observe you lay no Claim of Property we are of Opinion your delivering the Flour to us as the Supreme Authority of the State will be proper & necessary in order that it may be disposed of as in Justice & Propriety it ought—We conceive this also to be a happy Step to composing the Differences which have arisen on this Subject & a desirable measure towards Tranquillity & publick Confidence.

I am Sir.

P. S. A Committee of Congress being about to meet this Evening at 5 o'Clock on this Business your Answer previous thereto is requested.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 64.

PRES. REED TO WILLIAM HENRY CHAIRMAN &C., 1779.

Philadelphia, July 31st, 1779.

Sir,

I received your Letter this afternoon enclosing the order for the flour which has been brought from Wilmington and has remained in your hands, and which being declared by Mr Holker to have been purchased for the French Fleet is now given up on the requisition of Council.

I have also received and perused, and laid before the Council of the State, the representation made by you on that subject together with the papers therein referred to and have been in like manner favoured by Mr Holker with a counter Representation and sundry papers in Vindication. And tho no official or formal Judgment has been pronounced, I am clear in expressing my own and the opinion of the Council that *from these papers* the purchasing agent has been evading the laws prohibiting of Exportation for private gain of himself or others, and that it is highly probable he covered such a procedure under the sanction of publick authority—the unauthorized by Mr Holker so to do.

In this view of things while there is a Justice due to Mr Holker whose name has been used improperly the publick motives of the Gentlemen concerned and the circumstances under which it appeared to them will to an unprejudiced mind, undoubtedly free their proceedings from the imputation of wantonly endeavouring to injure the Interests of the Nation with whom we are connected in Alliance or private views of malice or partiality.

As Citizens having in View the real interests of our common Country in a time of publick distress and danger, and pursuing these objects I cannot but wish you success.

I am sir

Your obedient

humble servant

JOSEPH REED.

PRES. REED TO MR. HOLKER, FRENCH CONSUL.

Walnut Street, July 31st, 1779.

Sir,

I have chearfully devoted the first Hours of Health to your Application of the 21st Inst., which with that of the 29th, & the Papers inclosed have been the Subjects of the most deliberate Attention at the Board where I have the Honour to preside.

Having upon all Occasions endeavoured to render the Discharge of your Duties in this State easy & honourable, We now most sincerely regret that you should meet with any Interruption. The Protection of the Officers of his most Christian Majesty while exercising their Functions, with a due Regard to the Rights & Interests of this State, are not only entitled but shall receive effectual Protection & Support from the Authority of this State, & as this is the first Instance wherein that has been required, we hope the Event will shew that not only the Officers but the meanest Subject of France is in perfect Security from any unbecoming & licentious Conduct.

Having perused the Papers with which you favored us, & also those from the Committee, we should not have had any Difficulty in giving a formal & official Opinion on the Subject at once, if we had not observed in the News Paper of the Inst^t that tho' one Sett of Inhabitants had publicly censured your Conduct, another Sett had in most explicit Terms approved & justified it, and as we now have been informed the several Papers which have passed officially publicly communicated—this is a Procedure to which, if adopted by you, we have not the least Objection, & more especially if upon farther Consideration you have thought the Injury of such a Nature as only to be redressed & Mistakes removed in that Way.—In the Report to Congress, which you will doubtless receive in the same official Channell as your Representation was conveyed to us, we shall state our Sentim^{ts} on the Matter referr'd to us in such a Manner as Justice & due Regard to mutual Interests shall authorize & require—to which at present we beg Leave to refer you. In the mean Time we beg you to favour us with Information in a particular which we should not have ask'd if you had not desired us to intimate any Doubt which might occur in the Transaction, it being our Wish to be able to decide (so far as we are called upon to do) in the clearest Manner.—We observe it admitted on all Hands that in April Mr. Rumford was shipping Flour clandestinely, that he made use of your Name, tho', by his subsequent acknowledgm^t, without any Right so to do—that this being communicated to you he was still employed in the purchase of Flour, and thereby the Opp^y afforded to involve us in the present unpleasant Discussion, whereas had he been then dismissed with some publick Notification: if upon

farther Inquiry he had not vindicated himself it would have been a happy Means not only of preventing the present Difficulty but all future Suspicion; for you are too just & too reasonable to expect that when there is a general Prohibition of Exportation, Individuals could be seen availing themselves of Indulgencies of a public Nature without Notice or Concern.

In this View the Proceedings of the Committee, whose Motives are laudable, being without any counter Information on the Subject from those who could have given it, and however proper it might be for you in your publick Character to avoid any Intercourse with the same Reason does not hold with Persons not so intitled who ought, & we wish they had, given such Satisfaction as Friends & Citizens might expect. We say under these Circumstances the Judgment of the Committee will appear to an unprejudiced Mind very differently from what it would have done upon a Reverse of Circumstances. For while on the one Hand the Name & Authority of the King of France is entitled to every Mark of Veneration & Respect, we are persuaded you will join with us in reprobating its being applied to any private Views. My Sentiments of the Publication having been communicated; I need not repeat them, they still remain the same.

I have now Sir, to add that having made a formal Requisition of the Flour in Question, it is given up to the Supreme Executive Council, who being perfectly satisfied with the Assurances from you are ready to deliver it to your Order without any Condition or Limitation whatsoever, by which we hope you will clearly discern that it is intended to do away as far as possible the exceptionable Condition mentioned in the last Saturdays Publication.

Your own Observation & Judgment of the Country must have before this Time led you to remark the great Freedom of the Press with Respect to public Characters.—Ignorance of the Difference between those of this & of a foreign Country may have led to Error in this Case, which better Knowledge & a more attentive Consideration may in future prevent, & which your Candour will lead you to excuse, more especially when you cannot Doubt the most sincere Affection & Respect the true Lovers of American Freedom & Independance bear to the People of France, the contrary of which can only be insinuated by the Enemies of both, or from Private Party Views below the Dignity & Importance of national Concern.

We cannot but again repeat our unfeigned Concern & Sorrow at any Event which occasions you any Trouble or Impediment in the Prosecution of your Functions, & as the Transactions of private Commerce for Public Purposes appear so liable to Misconstruction & Suspicions, we beg Leave to tender you the Aid & Exertions of the Authority of the State, which having Weight & Confidence will, we think, prove an effectual Assistance & Security to you in future. We wish they had been ask'd at an earlier Period, we have no

doubt they would have been more efficacious, & certainly more satisfactory.

With Respect to the Title of Consul we have to observe that our Credit to an Advertisement under the Name of the Marine Committee, & the Assumption of it by a Gentleman whose Veracity & Honor were unquestioned, was sufficient to us to concur—but we have never yet had that Communication which creates official Knowledge.

It is also our Earnest Wish that the Right & Priviledges of the consular Character were clearly delineated by publick Authority, to which we should conform with the greatest Alacrity & Cheerfulness.

With these Sentiments & with the most clear & explicit Assurances of our Protection & Support in the due Discharge of your Office, & personal Respect & Attention,

I remain Sir,

Your most obed.

& very Hbbl. Ser.

JOHN VAN CAMPEN TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Smithfield, July the 31st, 1779.

Hon'd Sir,

The Bearer Coll. Chambers is an ondoubted friend to his Cuntry, Sub. Lieu' of our County, and an intelligable man, our Cuntry is in a Distress'd situation in my last to y^r Honour I mention'd of the Distress's of that Rich settlement call'd Mahakemack. I flatter'd myself of suckcess of our men that Step'd forth in Pursuit of the Enemy but my Expectations turnd out to the contrary I came from that place yesterday, where I went to get the Particulars of the present Situation of that Cuntry, I feare, without a speedy Relief this Cuntry will be Vacuated we have as yet no hopes of any Relief from the Interior parts of this County your Militia seems to be in Confusion at present. S^r I would Refer you to the Bearer Coll. Chambers for the particulars of our present Situation.

With Due Respect

I am s^r your Honours

Most Obdt. Huble sert.

JOHN VANCAMPEN.

N. B. By the Bearer I send y^r Honour an account of the men Missing that pursued the Enemy.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Pres't of the Executive Council
att Philadelphia.

For favour of Coll. Chambers.

PRES. REED TO MONS. GERARD, 1779.

In Council, Philad^a, July 31st, 1779.

Sir,

I have now the Honour of addressing you in Answer to the Representation you were pleased to make to this Board on the 24 Inst.

When to every Principle of Publick Affection, Policy & Justice there is added our Experience of your personal Friendship to America Attachment & engaging Deportment to the Citizens of Pennsylvania of every Rank all Professions on our Part to make your Residence in the State happy easy & honourable must be unnecessary.—It is not easy therefore for us to find Language to express our Concern at any Transaction which may disturb your Repose & interrupt the Exercise of those Functions discharged with so much Honour to yourself & Satisfaction to those who are called to take any Part in publick Affairs. In some Communications which the Hon. Congress have been pleased to make us we also see with great Concern Apprehensions are expressed the Reality of which we should deplore as an Evil of the first Magnitude—Be assured, Sir, that the Citizens of Philad^a—of Pennsylvania cannot entertain Sentiments so unworthy—but if there are any so lost to every Sense of Propriety, Decency & Order the Authority of the State has Power equal to its Inclination to check & suppress so licentious & wicked a Procedure.

We entreat you therefore to dismiss every Idea so painful and so dishonourable to us as that of personal Insult & repose Confidence in us when we confirm to you our Assurances of the Affection, Respect & Esteem of our Constituents. And if there are any persons who presume to insinuate Danger of the Outrages suggested in your Representations we most earnestly request you to consider them either as ignorant of the real Sentiments of those of whom they speak, or as acting from less honourable Motives.

I have now the Honour of acquainting you that upon the Requisition of the Board the Flour in Question & which has given Rise to this unhappy Discussion is delivered up to this Board, & that it is ready to be put into the Disposal of Mr. Holker or any Person he may direct for the Purposes of its original Destination without any Condition or Restriction, a Measure which we hope both as to you & himself will be considered as Relinquishment of those Terms which form a Ground of your Complaint. Our Desire to make the most early & explicit Avowal of our Sentiments & Intentions has induced us to make this Communication, at the same Time all other Business being laid aside we are now considering the Papers which touch the Character of Mr. Holker upon which we shall without Delay address ourselves to the Honourable the Congress of the Uni-

ted States thro whom these Communications have been made to us, and we trust it will fully appear that a Veneration for the Prince whose servant he is, Respect to your Interposition, Justice to him & a due Regard to the Rights & Interests of this State have influenced our Determination.

We observe all the Papers respecting this Transaction have been transmitted to you except a Resolution of this Board passed on the 14 Inst. which probably by some Accident has been omitted. I have now the Honour of inclosing it that every Proceeding may be fully before you.

Signed in & by order of Council.

July 31, 1779.

COMMERCIAL COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED,
1779.

Commercial Committee, 31st July, 1779.

Sir,

The Committee appointed by Congress to superintend the Commissary of Provisions department, have informed this Committee that there is at present on hand in the Public Magazines, Pork, Beef, and Flour, in greater quantities than the armies can consume before it may probably be spoiled.

It is therefore recommended by the Commissarial Committee with the concurrence of the Minister of France, that the Commercial Committee immediately issue their order for shipping for the use of the Fleets of His Most Christian Majesty in the West Indies, 2000 Barrels of Pork, 1000 Barrels Beef, and 1000 Barrels of Flour, the Minister having promised that the same shall be paid for at the Market price there.

We therefore request your Excellency's permission for shipping the above mentioned quantity for the purposes aforesaid.

We are, with respect and esteem,

Your Excellency's most humble
and Obedient Servants.

FRA'S LEWIS,
JAMES SEARLE,
JOHN FELL.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of Pennsylvania.

COL. MATTHEW SMITH TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

I take the Oppertunity of Conveying a few lines by the Bearer, John Gillcrest, Esq^r, (a Member of the Hon^{le} the House of Assembly) who, I think, was Pitch^d upon thinking he might have More Influence with Council, than Another that might as Quickly Deliver the Dispatches. For my Part, I think the Distresses of Northumberland County People Equal, if not Superior to any thing that have happen^d to any Part of the Continent Since the Commencement of the Present war. You will see the late Acc^t in Some Measure, by the letters Inclos^d by M^r M'Clay; I Believe only in Some Measure, as the Acc^t is almost every Minute Arriveing by People who have Escap^d the Enemy, that if true are indeed truly Alarming. The Acc^t this Moment is, the Town of Northumberland is Evacuated; if so, then Sunburry will soon follow the Example, & the Same frontier will be where it was twenty years Past. This Day the Township of Paxtang Met to Appoint a Committe to Act in Conjunction with the Other Parts of the State, to fix and lower the Prices. As soon as the letters Came to hand Mess^{rs} Eldar, M'Clay & my Self Attended, had the Whole Matter laid Before the People, that was no inconsiderable Number, & Propos^d a Scheme for Volantiers to turn out Immediately for the Relief of the Distress^d People. We have fix^d Sunday-Morning, Eight O'Clock, to March, when, I Doubt not, at least fifty Men will Go that way, as the Distress was so Great. Every thing has been Done to Encourage, but no Promise of Reward Absolutely Given. I know the Difficulty in Getting the Militia out; this Method in the Mean time, in hopes to Stop the Progress of the Enemy, if the Volantiers Can be Allow^d Wages, or even their Expenses, it will be Acceptable if it Cannot be Done. A few lines from your Excellancy—or from your Excellancy & Council will be truly Acceptable to me, and I will make the Best use of it in my Power; as I Assure you I have Made Every Proposal in my Power and Perhaps More; but as the Greatest Number now Going from this Batt^y is Officers, I hope to Make the Matter more Easy, than if they were Generally Privates. If you Write By the Bearer, Direct to Northumberland County, as I will be there two or three weeks from this Date, if the Country is not Entirely broken up.

I am, D^r Sir, with Esteem,

Your Most Ob^t, Humble Serv^t

MATT^y SMITH.

Paxtang, July 31st, 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the state of Pennsylvania.

Forwarded by John Gillcrest, Esq^r.

GEN. ST. CLAIR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

West Point, August 2^d, 1779.

Sir,

Your Excellency's Letter of the 22^d of July came to hand yesterday, with the Resolves of Council and the Commissions inclosed, but you mention a Note from Colonel Nicola, which I do not find.

I am very sorry that my Letter to Mrs. St. Clair should have occasioned you so much Trouble nor should I have taken the Liberty at all, but that I was very much hurried at the Time, was anxious for its going safe, and had not leisure to write another Letter to serve as a cover for it, to any one Else. I thank you, Sir, for the Pains you took about it, and should I have Occasion to make any Inclosures again, shall be more careful about the Manner of Sealing.

Mr. Broadhead has miscarried in his Application. A Board of Field Officers, a Copy of whose Report upon the Case is inclosed, have judged that he is precluded by a Resolve of Congress of the 22^d of May last. He unfortunately mentioned that Resolve himself, which was not then known of in Camp, but on Enquiry was found at Head Quarters. It is the harder on Mr. Broadhead, as several others in the same Circumstances had been introduced into the Line previous to that Resolve.

The constant Attention paid by your Excellency to the Comfort of the Army, and to relieve their Necessities has the Effect it ought to produce; to make every Man satisfied and grateful, and to the Honour of the State, they have done more for their Troops than any other on the Continent. The Thanks however are chiefly due to you for putting them in Motion. The Linnen will make a very handsome supply for every officer.

I was in Hopes that all Uneasiness about Rank was over; but, lately, a fresh Jealousy has arisen amongst the Colonells, that Colonel Atlee intends to return to the Army, and expects to take Rank over them from his flying Camp Commission. This, I think, they need not trouble themselves about, as I believe he has no such Views. But if he should have such an Intention perhaps he has not considered that his having accepted a seat in Congress would prevent him, a Resignation being necessary before any military Man can take a seat there; and a Resignation destroys all Rank, nor is it any Matter whether the Resignation is formal or not—the having acted in a Capacity to which that was a prerequisite must amount to a Resignation *de facto*. The Colonels however, I am sure, would never submit to it if the Case were otherwise, and I have been requested by some of them to mention it to you, which has occasioned this Paragraph.

No Movement in the Enemy's Army of Consequence has yet taken

Place. They are retired to York Island, from whence I think an Embarkation will soon happen, and probably will proceed to the Eastward, however if Sir Harry Clinton is superseded, a new Plan of Operations may be adopted—that Circumstance is confidently reported, but not ascertained. This Post at any Rate will soon be in a state not so much to require the Protection of an Army.

General Irwin requests me to present his Compliments, and I am with the greatest Respect and Esteem

Sir,

your most obedient servant,

A^c ST. CLAIR.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SECY. MATLACK, 1779.

Sir,

I was much obliged to you for the Commission for the Ship Defence & returned the Bond executed but do not know the charge. I am now requested by Mess^{rs} Hooe & Harrisons of Alexandria to send them a Commission for the Ship Gen^l Washington of I believe 18 Guns & 60 men Cap^t Walker, and another for Schooner Bishop Cap^t of about Eight guns Col^o Hooe & his partners are men of Consequence staunch whiggs, & will return the Bonds duely executed or if more agreeable I will sign them here. I hope there is no impropriety in these applications, & if there is not, you'l oblige me by sending the Commissions by the bearer to go ^{by} Post and let him know the charge of each that he may bring the money to your office.

I am

with much respect

Sir your Obed^t

h'bb Servant

ROB^t MORRIS.

August 3d, 1779.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq^r., Sec^y of Pensylvania.

H. MILLER & JNO. CLARK JR. TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Berwick, Aug^t 3d, 1779.

Gent,

Ensign Wm. Russell now of the third Pennsylvania, but late of the first Regiment entered into the service of America at the commencement of the War, and marched with the first Rifle Company from this County to Cambridge, during the time he was under our Command he behaved as a good and dutiful Soldier, nor have we ever heard any thing to his prejudice since, at the Battle of Brandewine he lost his Leg by a Cannon ball from the Enemy which as we understand has deprived him of his Promotions, and that justice may be done him, we have thought proper to write you in his favor & have granted him this as a certificate due to his Merit, & we make no doubt you will grant him all the aid in your power.

We are

very respectfully

your honors most Obed^t Serv^{ts}

HY. MILLER,

JNO. CLARK, Jun.

*Directed,*To His Excellency the Pres^t & supreme Executive Council.

COL. MATTHEW SMITH TO PRES. REED, 1779.

August 3rd, 1779.

Sir,

I have Arriv^d at Sunburry, with Sixty Paxtang Boys, the Neighbouring Townships turns out a Number of Volantiers, Cumberland County will Give a Considerable Assistance, to morrow at 12 o'Clock is fixt for the time of March, Provisions is Scarce, But we intend to follow the Savages, we hope to Come at them, as they Number of Cattle, is Great, they have taken, from the Countrey & must make a Slow Progress on their Return home—I hope to See them on their Return & Doubt not if we Do, to Give a Good Acc^t. I inclose a Copy of the Capitulation at Fort Freeland,* the Captⁿ M^c Donald of the Rangers, is formerly a Sergeant in Col. Montgomery's Reg^t of Highlanders, his humanity has Appear^d in this one Instance—Perhaps the first in this war, fifty two Women & Children Came safe

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 62.

to this place, being the Number Taken—four old Men also was Admitted to Come Back, the Enemy Suppos^d them not fit to March to Niagara. inclos^d is a list of the Number of Capt^r Boon's party kill^d, also the Names of the Persons belonging to the Garrison. this Acc^t I Believe is the Fact as the party out yesterday have Bury^d the Dead, Gave me the List. the Distress of the People here is Great—you may have some Conception, but Scarcely Can be told—the town now Composes Northumberland County. the Enemy have Burnt, Every where they have Been, houses, Barnes, Rice & Wheat, in the fields, Stocks of hay, &c : is all Consum^d—Such Devastation I have not yet Seen—I write this in haste & am Sir your Most ob^t Humb^l Servt.

MATT^r SMITH.*

Aug^t 3^d, 1779, Sunbury.

Directed,

His Excellency, Jo^s Reed Esq^r President of the State of Pennsylvania.

—
No. 1.

Those kill'd at Freeland's fort in
Capt. Boon's party.

Capt. Boon,
Capt. Sam^l Dougherty,
Jeremiah M^cGlahglen,
Natt^o Smith,
John Jones,
Edw^d Oostikan,
Ezra Green,
Samuel Neel,
Matt^w McClintock,
Hugh M^cGill,
And^r Woods.

Kil^d in the fort.

Ja^s Watt,
John M^cClintock,
W^m M^cClung,
James Miles,
Henry Gilfillen.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 62.

No. 2.

ARTICLES OF CAPITULATION, FORT FREELAND, 1779.

Articles of Capitulation Ent^d into Between Capt^a John M^cDaniel
On his Majesties part & John Little on that of that of the Congress.

Article 1st. The Men in Garrison to March out & Ground their
Arms in the Green, in front of the fort which is to be taken in Pos-
session of Immediately by his Majesty's Troops.

Agreed too.

2nd. All Men Bearing Arms are to Surrender themselves
Prisoners of War & to be Sent to Niagara.

Ag^d too.

3^d. The Women and Children not to be Strip^d of their Cloathing
nor Molested by the Indians and to be at Liberty to Move Down
the Country where they Please.

Ag^d too.

A Copy.

JOHN M^cDONALD Capt. of Rangers.
JOHN LITTLE.*

DANIEL LEVAN TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Reading, 3d August, 1779.

Sir,

I shall take it as a particular favor, if you will be so kind as to
send me by the bearer James Cotter, one hundred and forty Licences
for Tavern keepers, if you conveniently can, as Court is to be held
here next week, I have not any neither have I received any since I
have been in Commission.

I should also be glad, if you will be kind enough to inform ~~us~~
return of bearer, your proper fees on each Licence, as I am not pro-
perly acquainted with them in the late regulation.

Inclosed I now send my Bond for performance of office, to his
Excellency Jos. Reed, Esq., President of this State, it ought to have
been sent before, but hopes his Excellency will excuse the neglect.

It's Reported here this day by several people coming from San-
bury in the County of Northumberland, that the Indians have burn'd
several Houses & Barns near Wallaces, taken a small Fort, and

* See preceding Letter.

about thirty Prisoners, by accounts they are determined to obstruct the Communication between Sanbury and the north Branch of the River Susquehanna.

I am with respect,

Sir, your most

Ob't humble Servant,

DAN. LEVAN.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esq., Secretary Philadelphia.

PRES. REED TO COL. BARTHEM GALBRAITH, 1779.

Aug^t 3d, 1779.

Sir,

Inclosed I send you a Resolution of Council calling forth a Class of the Militia for the Relief of the Frontiers which are overwhelmed with Distress, Sum of the most considerable Persons killed & their Families flying into the Safe Parts of the Cuntry leaving all behind them. We hope there will be no Difficulty on this Occasion in turning out, & we shall regard that man as an Enemy to his Country & to this State in particular who endeavours to disturb the Minds of the People with Disputes about the Militia Laws. Our Orders are clear & explicit for a Class that there may be no Pretence of Evasion & we require of you a firm & faithful Performance of your Duty by rewarding these brave Men & deserving Men who are willing to assist their Brethren in Distress, & fining with Impartiality & Strictness every one who refuses. We see & feel the Consequences of our former Orders having been uncomplied with, a whole County broke up & a heavy State Expence incurred which would have been on the United States if Our orders of last Spring had been obeyed & a regular Tour of Duty preserved. Whereas now it may become a Question. We expect 300 Men from your County & if one Class does not furnish then call upon another & so on untill the Number is procured fining all Delinquents. It is a reproach to those who live in Safety to refuse to march to the Assistance of their distressed Friends which Lancaster County will not upon this Occasion I hope incur. We are fully persuaded of your Exertions & hope you will act on this Occasion with your usual Spirit & Attention. Should any Difficulties be thrown in your Way we request you to inform us by whom & on what Pretence, as we are resolved to make the Conduct of such Persons fully & clearly known.

I am Sir, &c.

Directed,

To Col. B. Galbraith Lt of Lancaster.

PRES. REED TO COL. JACOB STROUD, 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a, August 3d, 1779.

Sir,

The Distresses of your County by the late Incursions of the Indians has given us very great Concern, and the more so as we understand the Militia having got into some Confusion do not render the Services that might be expected. We are sorry to find that some mistaken Opinions you have formed on the Mode of their being called out & of the Appointments of the Lieutenants have had a great share in this Evil. As you are now most probably experiencing the sad Effects of such Mistakes we shall not add to your Pain by dwelling upon them. But desire you to consider the Effects & Consequences, which cannot be other than the Ruin of your outer Settlements & Impoverishment of the County itself.

A well regulated Militia is the only proper & effectual Force against Such an Enemy, & the Enemy would stand more in Awe of them than three Times the Number of standing Troops. To raise Companies for a few Months is not only dreadfully expensive & in most Cases ineffectual, but it seems to unhinge the System & leaves you in fact much weaker than before. As you therefore possess a good share of the Esteem & Confidence of the People, I shall hope & do recommend it to you as the best Service you can perform to your bleeding Country to do away as far as possible the Effects of former Opinions & strive by a general Concurrence with the other Gentlemen in the Militia to give them Vigour & Efficacy, encouraging & promoting a Spirit of Fidelity & Obedience to the Laws as calculated to afford the best Relief & Security against this dreadful Calamity.

Wishing you Health & Safety

I remain Sir, your most

obed. & very Hbbl Serv^t

JOS. REED,

President.

Directed,

To Colonel Jacob Stroud of N^a County.

PRES. REED TO MATTHEW SMITH, 1779.

In Council,
P^a, August 3^d, 1779.

Sir,

The Accounts from Northumberland are so truly alarming & distressing that since their Arrival we have been devising every Method in our Power to give the desired Relief. Every Event of this kind shews in the clearest & strongest Colours the Necessity & Use of a well regulated Militia, & we hope will shew our Friends in the Country the Obligations they are under to execute those Laws & enforce that System which can only give efficacious Assistance & Relief in such Calamity. The Activity & Spirit you have shewn in going to their Relief with the few brave Men you have collected, entitles you & them to our warmest Thanks, which I hope you will make known to them. We have passed the enclosed Resolves & shall give every other Aid & Assistance we can for their Encouragement & Support—when you write again let us know what farther can be done to shew our Approbation of their Conduct & give them farther Proofs of our Attention.

We suspect the principal Design of the Enemy is to evade & counteract the Expedition against them under Gen. Sullivan, and if they mean to fall into his Rear we should hope a vigorous Exertion on the Part of the Country will render such a Position very dangerous—if on the other Hand, no such Exertion is made, 300 Men in the Rear of that Army will more effectually counteract its Operations than 1000 in the Front. These are Considerations which we hope will have a powerful Effect on the Minds of the People & induce them to exert themselves vigorously to put the Enemy between two Fires—For it may reasonably be expected that if they should meet with any severe Loss this will be the last Effort—as the Care of their own Country must now become an Object of their Concern.

Party Disputes here are again raised to a very high Pitch, it should seem that the restless Disposition of some Persons will never leave the Community in Peace—It is to be wish'd they would defer them till the Enemy was gone & then if they chuse to quarrell they would only injure themselves.—Wishing you Health & Safety, & requesting you to inform us of your Proceedings by all Opportunities, I remain Sir,

your most obed. & very
Hbble Ser.*Indorsed,*1779, August 3^d, To Honble Matthew Smith, Esq., Councillor for L^e County.

PRES. REED TO COL. SAML. HUNTER, 1779.

August 3, 1779.

Sir,

The several Letters from you to Col. Smith & from several other Gentlemen informing of the Distress of the County of Northumberland, have been duly received & attended to. Professions of our sympathy & concern are unnecessary you must suppose what is really the Case that an Anxiety to relieve & support you is only to be equalled by the Distress & Calamity to which you have been exposed. Having made an early tryal of the Militia of the interior Counties to go to the Frontiers & form a sort of Standing Protection & finding our best Measures defeated partly by the Neglect & Misconduct of our own Officers & partly by the very improper Conduct of some Persons of Weight & Influence who from Party views did all in their Power to distract & censure the People we were constrained to trust the Defence of the Frontiers to Providence and the small exertions of the People, immediately interested, at the same time ever hoping that Gen. Sullivans expedition would be so efficacious, as to give a Permanency of Safety & tranquility. We cannot relinquish our Expectation that this will yet be the Case in the End, & it would have been some Consolation if the intermediate Ravages had not been so great & distressing.

You will see by the enclosed what steps we have taken, & we shall do every thing farther that can be done—if you want any supplies let us know it, if any practicable Measures besides the Militia or in Lieu of it occurs to you acquaint us with it—after the most mature deliberation we could see only two Measures to be taken the first to give all possible Encouragement to the Volunteers who would turn out in the Exigence, & Secondly to send a competent Force of Militia as soon as possible to their Relief, orders for which are gone forth. If they will not assist their friends Brethren & Countrymen we cannot help it—but we trust that seeing what dreadful Consequences do ensue from Neglect they will exert themselves to save what is left & encourage & support their Friends in the time of Distress.

I am with much Regard Sir,

Your most obed. & very

Hbble Ser. |

To Col. Samuel Hunter Lieutenant, of Northumberland.

PRES. REED TO COLS. &c. OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, 1779.

Philad., Aug. 3, 1779.

Gentlemen,

It has given us great Concern to hear that when your County is in the utmost Danger & Apprehension, when so many of your friends & Countrymen are suffering so much from a cruel & barbarous Enemy, the Militia which if well regulated would be your best Defence is in such a state of Confusion as to give little or no Aid. We entreat you Gentlemen to bestir yourselves support your Lieutenants with your utmost Weight & Influence, remove from the Minds of your Neighbours every unkind & uncharitable Sentiment & urge them to obey the Laws, to perform the Offices & Duties of Humanity which require us on all Occasions to endeavour to relieve the Distresses & remove the Dangers of our Friends & Fellow Subjects. It is probable from this Beginning that the Indians finding you so unprepared will be induced to continue their Ravages & endeavour to evade the Expedition set on Foot against them by distressing & destroying the Frontiers.—I therefore take this Opp^y to request you would at some convenient Day call out your Battalions, convince them of the Necessity & Duty they are under to turn out with Alacrity & Zeal when such Havock is made among their Friends & Countrymen. If they are Lovers of this Government & Constitution they will shew it by their Submission to its Laws & a cheerful Discharge of their Duty—for nothing can so effectually disgrace & injure any government as having its Laws neglected its Frontiers destroyed & a mere handful of an Enemy committing Ravages which the spirited Exertions of a few Men will soon suppress if animated by a proper Sence of Duty to themselves & their Country.

Extinguish the Disputes which subsist among you as fatal to your Peace Safety & Happiness & hereafter let there be but one Dispute who shall serve his Country best. If there are any Differences between you & any of the Lieutenants in Matter of Opinion avoid Disputes & Heartburnings as much as possible, support each other, & be assured that we will support you with every Necessary. If I could flatter myself this happy Spirit would prevail I should have Pleasure in visiting the County & examining the State of the Militia—This I shall endeavour to do this Fall if other publick Business will admit, in the mean Time recommending these Things to your most serious Consideration.

I remain Gentleman,

Your sincere Friend

& Obed. Hbble Servt.

Directed,

To the Colonels & other Field Officers of the Militia in Northumberland County.

PRES. REED TO COL. JOHN WETZEL, 1779.

Philad^a, August 8, 1779.

Sir,

The Depredations which have lately been committed in & near the County of Northampton have given us the most sensible Concern. We had flattered ourselves that the Expedition under Gen^l Sullivan would have given perfect Peace to that & every other Part of our Western Frontiers. It must now be clearly evident that nothing can afford effectual Relief against this Calamity but a well regulated Militia, which being always at Hand might before this Time if duly attended to have given a Check to their barbarous Incursions. It was to this Force & not to standing Troops or volunteer Companies raised for a few Months & stationed in Forts that N. England delivered herself from the most horrible Indian Wars. And we must recommend it to you in the most earnest & serious Manner to give this important Service your utmost Attention. If your other offices as we fear is the Case interfere with your Duties as Lieutenant of the County—we would wish you to consider in which you can be most useful, and not suffer one Duty to clash with another by attempting to perform too much or too many.

If the Colonels or other Officers fail in their respective Duties & do not give you the Support they ought we request you would candidly & fairly communicate such Transactions that Measures may be taken to enforce a different Line of Conduct. If the Frontiers are broke up those who now think themselves safe will be a Frontier & shortly experience that Wretchedness from which they now refuse to rescue their Neighbours. We doubt not from the Influence & Weight you must possess that your Representations on this Head will be much regarded & we do entreat you to leave no Means untried to effect this desirable Purpose.

We immediately complied with your Request the other Day, we shall do the same on all other Occasions being resolved that nothing in our Power shall be wanting to give the good People of the County all possible Relief and Assistance.

I am Sir,

Your most Obed. & very

Hbble Servt.

JOS. REED, President.

PRES. REED TO COL. JOHN CARUTHERS, 1779.

Philad., Aug. 4, 1779.

Sir,

I enclose you a Resolve of this Board directing you to call forth a Class of Militia, provided the same consists of 300 Men exclusive of Officers, for the Relief of the distressed Inhabitants of Northumberland, who are now fleeing in the greatest Distress before the Savages of the Wilderness, & Whites more savage if possible than they. Having never accepted your Resignation or that of the Sub Lieut, Mr. Sharpe & Gregory, you cannot consider yourselves discharged from those Offices, & we therefore expect & require of you to act with the same Vigour & Firmness as if you had never presented them. It is now no Season for Dispute or Opposition—every lesser Consideration must give way to the Relief of these unhappy Sufferers, & that Man, let his Pretences be what they may, who opposes this Duty of Justice or Humanity must be an Enemy to his Country & this State in particular. Should any Obstructions therefore be thrown in your Way similar to those upon former Occasions, we request you to pay no Regard to them, but to proceed with Vigour & Firmness, acquainting us with the Circumstances. The particulars of the Distresses you will see some short Sketch of in the inclosed News Paper, but this is a very imperfect Picture of what they really are. The Reason why we have not called upon York is because by the Irregularity of their Proceedings & Confusion the Militia have got into such a State that we could expect no Service from them. This will be a Matter proper for the Consideration of the Assembly, who doubtless will take Care that no County shall take Advantage of its own Wrong to exempt itself from publick Duties. Our Orders are now so clear, that we think no Dispute can possibly arise, and as it may be possible that before the Militia can march, there may be some Alteration in the State of Affairs, we request you to correspond with Col. Hunter, & if he should alter the Destination of the Troops you will conform—but in our own Judgment a Body of Troops will be essentially necessary to preserve the Communication with Gen. Sullivan's Army.

You will also direct the Company of Rangers raised in your County to proceed agreeable to the Resolve. We have not heard of their Progress for some Time. Mr. Carson of Carlisle can inform you, if Capt. Campbell should be at a Distance.

We cannot doubt but under these Circumstances, you, & Mr. Sharpe & Mr. Gregory will consider it as a Duty of the most essential Kind & perform it accordingly. In so doing you will show your Regard to your Country, & render an acceptable Service to us.

I am, Sir,

Your most obd. Hbble. Ser.,

J. R.

To Colonel John Caruthers.

COL. SAML. HUNTER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sunbury, August y^e 4th, 1779.

Sir,

I am sorry to inform you that this County has sufered very much leatly by the Ravages of a Cruel Savage Enemy ; y^e 26th of last month there was a large party made their appearance at Fort Freeland, to the amount of between three and four Hundred, Indians, Torys, & some Regular Troops, under the Command of one Capt. McDonald ; they surrounded the small Garrison, and fired very smartly for some time, which was Returned by the men in y^e fort, when McDonald Hoisted a white Flag, & one John Little that was in the Garrison went out with another ; they met a little Distance of and concluded on Articles of Capitulation,—that all who bore arms in the Garrison was to Surrender prisoners of War, and the Women and Children to be at liberty to go off unmolested.

There was in the Garrison at the time Twenty Six men & fifty Women and Children, who is all come safe in ; the firing at Freeland was heard at Boons Mill, about seven miles Distance, where a number of the inhabitants had collected. Captains Boon and Kemplen marched of with thirty four men to reinforce the Fort at Freeland, but was met a little ways on this side by a number of the Savages, who surrounded them immediately ; our men behaved with great bravery for some little time, but being overpowered by numbers was almost cut to pieces ; our loss there was fifteen kill'd & two Wounded ; among the Dead is Cap^t Boon & Cap^t Saml. Dougherty, two Very Good men.

Upon this Alarm, all the inhabitants above this came into Northumberland & Sunbury, where we put ourselves in the best posture Possable for to stand our Ground and defend the two towns in case the Enemy advanced ; in consequence of this sudden alarm, I sent of an Expreas to General Sullivan, informing him of our situation, and Requesting some few of his Troops to assist us in the dangerous state we were in at that time, but he did not think it expedient to send any, which you will see by the inclosed Coppy of his letter to me, his Reasons for not Complying with my Request.*

The Enemy is gone over Muncy Hill, by the best intelligence we have from Partys we keep out, and has Plundered and burned the Country within ten or twelve miles of Northumberland Town on the West Branch ; there is a number of familys that is Realy in Distress, haveing nothing left them to subsist uppon. I have ordered these Rations for some little time, untill I hear from Council. We Expect to have as Good as two Hundred or more Volintiers from Paxton & Hanover here this night, (and a number of them the principle people in these two Townships) and intends makeing up a party of four Hundred men to pursue those Plunderers and En-

* See page 594.

deavour to Retake our Horses and Cows they have along, which is a great Quantity.

General Sullivan marched from Wyoming last Saturday with the Whole Army, Except a Small Garrison left there, and if this does not draw of the Attention of the Enemy from our Quarter, we Cannot pretend to stay here without some assistance of Troops being stationed for the imediat defence of the County, as the best of our men is engaged in the Boat Service, and gone out with the Army, which Weakens this County much.

I am, with great Esteem,

your Excellency's most Ob^t Humb^o Serv^t,

SAML. HUNTER, L. N. C.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

WM. McCALLA TO PRES. REED 1779.

Plumstead, 4 Aug^t, 1779.

Sir,

As I have been a long time in the Forage Department in Bucks County, I beg leave to acquaint you that Foraging is become more difficult than Ever, tho' there is a great Plenty, they will not spare it (a few Excepted) without an Extravagant price, & many not even for that, & beg the Executive Body will take it into Consideration, & hope some method will speditly be taken by that Body to Enable us to supply every post with grain & Hay sufficient, that we may be enabled (with a blessing) to have a Sufficient Supply & go on and Prosper which is the sincere wish & desire of your most Obed^t and Very H^obble Serv^t.

WM. McCALLA, A. F. G^l.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r., President of the Executive Council, Philad^a.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 72.

PLAN FOR IMPROVING THE CURRENCY, 1779.

Philadelphia, August 4th, 1779.

To His Excellency, The President and the Supreme Executive Council.

We have the honor of presenting to Council the inclosed printed plan for stopping the emissions and raising a revenue by subscription, which after being published in the newspapers and in handbills for the consideration of the Public, and twice read at a general Town Meeting held in the State-house yard, on the 26th day of July last, was unanimously approved, and the subscribers part of whom are the proposers and projectors of the same, were at the said Town meeting unanimously appointed a Committee to wait on his Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r, President, the Hon^{ble} George Bryan Esq^r Vice President, and other members of the Supreme Executive Council, and to confer with them thereon, and request their assistance in carrying the same into execution as soon as possible.

It is with the utmost pleasure that we execute this unanimous Resolution of our fellow Citizens, and at the same time that we feel the most flattering hopes from the plan itself, and from the cheerful concurrence of all orders of Men to promote and support it, we have likewise the most perfect confidence that the wisdom and patriotism of Council will afford to it every assistance which to them shall appear necessary and Convenient.

By a unanimous Vote, we are directed to present it to you in the name of the Citizens of Philadelphia and its neighbourhood, and that the same be hereafter known by the title of "*The Citizen's Plan*," under which authority and title we hereby discharge this part of the trust with which we have been honored.

As expedition makes an important part towards ensuring success, we shall take the liberty of laying before Council, such measures as may occur to us for the purpose of carrying the same into execution.

We are of opinion, that the experiment may be very quickly made in this City, and the success which we hope it will here meet with will give it an honorable introduction into other States, for we are happy to observe that however various Individuals may be in matters of personal Politics, all are united in a determination to support measures for establishing the currency and stopping the emissions.—We therefore beg leave to submit the following method to the opinion of Council.

First. That Subscription books be immediately prepared, one for each ward, and that the general committee of which most of us have likewise the honor to be members, do nominate two proper

persons at least in each ward, to go from House to House to Solicit the Subscriptions.

Secondly. That the persons to whom that part of the business shall be entrusted, do only receive the Subscriptions in the hand writing of each person but not any part of the money.

Thirdly. That the Books when completed be lodged with the supreme executive Council, and copies of them with this Committee, until a law be passed to secure to each subscriber the money he shall deposit, by exempting him from paying Taxes until his future Taxes shall be equal to his subscription, or until the expiration of three years agreeable to the 2d Article.

Fourthly. That immediatly on passing such a law Government to appoint persons to collect the money, but as we wish the whole to be an honorary undertaking, we hope the gentlemen who may be appointed to that Service to consider it in that light, accepting the disbursement of their Expences only.

Fifthly. That the above method if approved, be recommended to the several Counties, as well from this Committee, as from the general Committee with such assistance as government shall please to give them.

We have likewise to request Council to confer with Congress on the subject and to desire them either collectively or individually to recommend the same to be generally adopted, and as we on our part shall take the earliest opportunity to send and propose the same to the Citizens of each State, we request the Council would be pleased to transmit it likewise to the several Governments under the sanction of their Recommendation.

We are

with the greatest respect

your Ob^t & very humble Serv^{ts}

DANIEL ROBERDEAU,
WM. BRADFORD,
WM. HENRY,
THOMAS PAINE,
JAMES HUTCHISON,
DAV'D RITTENHOUSE,
OWEN BIDDLE.*

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 65, 67, 72, also page 648, in this Vol.

WILLIAM MACLAY TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Sunbury, August 5th, 1779.

Dear Sir,

It is with sincere pleasure That I inform you That the martial Spirit is not yet extinct on the Frontiers of Pennsylvania. The attack made by McDonald last week, in this County, was an alarming one, as the ultimate object appeared to be the Magazine at Sunbury, and the cutting off the Communication with Genl. Sullivan. The Danger had a Proper effect on the Frontier Inhabitants of Lancaster, Cumberland and York County. As it was evident That an Order from the Council would be too slow in its effect, for the Succour of Sunbury; Volunteers to march immediately to Northumberland County was the only expedient that could be thought of. Near Fifty of Col. Elder's Battalion, with Col. Smith, marched without Loss of Time up the Susquehannah, and arrived in Sunbury on Monday Evening; every hour since has brought us fresh accession of Numbers; We were near five hundred strong this Morning, and the Whole marched under Command of Col. Smith (of the Council) For Muncy, determined, if the Enemy remain in these Parts, to seek them out.

However laudable the spirit of these Men may be, I cannot help observing that the support we derive from them can only be temporary and short. We have, however, no Doubt But part of the Militia will be called out to our Support.

As to News, Gen. Sullivan certainly marched last Saturday, and not before; we do not learn that he paid any attention to the Party under McDonald.

'Tis said McDonald, in some instances, restrained the impetuosity of the Savages, with respect to the Prisoners. None, however, of Boon's Men were made Prisoners. The Enemy were amazingly fond of Plunder; every thing, however, which they could not take away was destroyed. Stacks of Grain, Hay, &c., set on fire, Houses burned and the Fences thrown down, when the Grain was still standing in the Fields. In Fact every species of Devastation that can be thought of. They have not (notwithstanding y^e contrary Reports) advanced nearer Sunbury Than about Twelve Miles, and I am apt to believe that their main Body were not nearer than the Fort at Freeland's and That their Retreat was made with Haste.

The great number of Cattle yet in the woods as well as the Quantity of Effects left behind by the Flying Inhabitants, which The Indians could not take with them, or rather had not time to discover with certainty, may, perhaps, induce them to pay us a Second Visit; nothing, however, can be said with certainty of the Motions of so irregular an Enemy.

I cannot help confessing myself rather inclined to believe (or

perhaps I ought to say wish) that they will attend to the Motions of General Sullivan's Army, and That we will not be troubled with them for some Time. Pray excuse my troubling you with this long and incorrect Letter, I assure you I have scarce Time to read it, much less to make it shorter. But I know I write to a Friend.

I am, Sir, with great Regard,

Y^r most obed. & most Hbble Serv^t,

W^m MACLAY.

Directed,

Publick Service.

Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary to the Hon^{ble} executive Council of Pennsylvania.

By favour of Jno. Weitzel, Esq.

CAPT. THOS. CLUGGAGE TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Fort Robertdeau, August the 6th, 1779.

S^r,

This Morning arived at this post, Bringing With me what men I could Collect on the Way. I think from the accounts of my Bruther, that the Number of the Enemy in those parts must be Large. I am sorry that I had not been on the Fruntiers at the time it happened, but on Receiving your Leter Directing me to apply to M^r Carson, in Carlisle, for such Articles as was wanting for my men, it Caused me to be abroad—as Near an ac't as I Can Give is mentioned in his Letter to the Board of War.—I hope you will Excuse me in Writeing Short at this time, as the Express was Waiting when my Bruther's Letter was Wrote.

I am Your Hb^l S^t,

THOMAS CLUGGAGE.

N. B.—This Moment there is Twelve men arived, and with them and what Can be Speared from this garrison, I Will march Ema^detly to morrison's Caave.

as Above,

THO^o CLUGGAGE.

To the Hounourable, the pressedant of the Executive Counsel.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sr,

I am favoured with your Excellencies of yesterday's date, & am sorry for the mistake, particularly as it is out of my power to comply with your Directions to the full extent. The money expended in the recruiting service was, as I informed your Excellency & the Vice President, borrowed on a promise of being immediately repaid; as the debt continued longer than I expected, I was anxious to discharge it as soon as I received money from M^r Writtenhouse.

From the sum ordered I concluded it was intended the recruiting service should go on, & informed Col. Pickering therewith, who supplied me with money to pay the continental bounty, & to expedite the service as far as was in my power give directions for recruiting; & five men were engaged & partly paid before the mistake was discovered. The costs of these men & amount of former account, makes 2816½; if you will please to furnish M^r Writtenhouse with an order for that sum, I will repay him the ballance.

Permit me to assure your Excellency, that I am, with respect,

S^r. Your most obed. & hum^b Servant,

LEWIS NICOLA, Col. Inv.

August 6th, 1779.

Directed.

To his Excellency, Joseph Reed, President of the State.

PRES. REED TO JOHN ORNDT, 1779.

Philadelphia, Aug^t 6, 1779.

Sir,

By order of His Excellency, the President, I send you the enclosed order of Council, which you are requested to send to Col^l Stroud's Neighbourhood, and have the same formally delivered to him in such manner as that full proof may be had of the delivery thereof. For this purpose it will be proper to take a copy of it compared with the original by the person who shall be appointed by you to deliver it to Col^l Stroud, & noting the day of serving it.

You will also please to forward the enclosed, as directed, to Col^l Weitzel.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

To John Orndt, Esq^r.

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GENL. WASHINGTON TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Head Quarters, West Point,

6th August, 1779.

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to inclose a list of sundry officers belonging to your State who have been in captivity and are reported by the commissary of prisoners as violaters of parole. A conduct of this kind so ignominious to the individuals themselves, so dishonorable to their country and to the service in which they have been engaged—and so injurious to those gentlemen who were associated with them in misfortune but preserved their honor—demands that every measure should be taken to deprive them of the benefit of their delinquency, and to compel their return. We have pledged ourselves to the enemy to do every thing in our power for this purpose, and in consequence I directed Mr. Beatty, Commissary of prisoners, to issue the summons, which*

* * * * *

of the different States to enforce compliance. Most of these persons never having been, and none of them now being in Continental service, military authority will hardly be sufficient to oblige them to leave their places of residence and return to captivity against their inclination: neither will it be difficult for them to elude a military search and keep themselves in concealment. I must therefore intreat that you will be pleased to take such measures as shall appear to you proper and effectual to produce their immediate return. This will be rendering an essential service to our officers in general in captivity, will tend much to remove the difficulties which now lie in the way of exchanges, and to discourage the practice of violating paroles in future.

Indorsed,

* 1779, rec^d Sept^r 4th. From His Excellency Genl. Washington, A List of American Officers, prisoners, who have violated their parole. Answ^d Sept. 7, 1779.

Directed,

To Gov^r Reed.

* The *autograph* has been cut from this letter, depriving the first page of a portion—indicated by the ** The list of officers referred to has not been found.]

SEC'Y MATLACK TO THE WARDENS, &c., 1779.

Philadelphia, August 6, 1779.

Gentlemen,

The several ferries within the city of Philadelphia being by law under your direction, I send you the enclosed letter from Coll. Pettit, A. Q. M. G., agreeable to the orders of His Excellency the President.

And am with great respect,

Your very hm'ble servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

Directed.

To The Wardens & Assessors of the city of Philadelphia.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

In Council,

Philada., August 6th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

It has been a Rule with us not to give the Articles allowed by the Ass^y to any Officers but those who were with the Army & in the Ordinary Line of Duty. The inclosed is from an Officer who represents himself as left by Col. Proctor to superintend the Hospital at the Valley Forge. That Officers should occasionally visit Hospitals we believe is a usual Practice, but that it should be a standing Duty for an Officer of the Line to remain at a Hospital to superintend the Surgeons appears to us so extraordinary that we have not given an Answer to this Officer's Request till you should favour us with some Information on the Subject, which we request you to do as soon as convenient.

I have the Honor to be Gen^l,

Your Obed. Hbbl. Ser.*

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 67.

PRES. REED TO MR. HOLKER, 1779.

In Council,
Philadelphia, August 9th, 1779.

Sir,

Having in the enclosed Resolves* expressed our Sense of the late Transactions referr'd to us by Congress & yourself we should have avoided any farther Discussions of Points wherein there may not be a perfect Conformity of Sentiment, if we did not hope that such Consequences may be drawn from them as to prevent any future Uneasiness & establish you in the Exercise of your Functions with Honour & Tranquility.

We cannot question the Accuracy & Justice of our Expression that your Conduct was publicly censured because it is the express Subject of Complaint in your Letter of the 24th July, wherein you observe that notwithstand'g the many Circumstances adduced to show the Propriety of your Conduct "you are still held up to the " Publick in a suspicious Light and as if accountable for the private " & personal Transactions of Mr. Rumford totally foreign to you & " the Instructions or Orders given by you," this was the Publication which we had in View as containing an Imputation on you, forming the Ground of your Complaint and the subject of Consideration for Congress & the supreme executive Council, & upon which we have employed so much Time. If you do not regard it as a publick Imputation but merely by a few Individuals we hope the Impressions will be the sooner removed & will give you less Anxiety. There may be an Obscurity of Expression in combining the Imputation & the Justification as contained in the same News Paper, by the former we meant the Contents of the Papers of the & ult, & the Latter the Paper of the ult.

As you have assured us your Intention in laying open official Papers to the publick Inspection of private Citizens was with no other Design than to show you had submitted your Conduct & Complaints to the View of publick Authority, we wish those who had the Conduct of the Business had conformed to your Intentions as not the least Idea of this kind is expressed, but on the other Hand a clear & formal Judgment delivered which those Gentlemen from the partial View of the Case were no more qualified to give than those who had expressed a different Sentiment. It had beside this an Appearance of Distrust in publick Authority to which you have repeatedly & very properly declared you conceiv'd yourself alone accountable. It may also be construed Time & Circumstance being considered as involving your Affairs with local Politics & Party Views, which we most earnestly recommend to you on all Occasions to avoid even the

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 66, 68.

Appearance of as it will occasion you numberless Embarrassments & will tend to alienate the Affection of at least a Part of the People from your Office & Person.

After requesting us so earnestly both verbally & otherwise to examine into this Transaction & declare our Sense upon it we do not perfectly comprehend your Idea that the Information respecting Rumford has no sort of Relation to the Resolve & Reference of Congress or is any way cognizable by us. If his Actions tho in another State tend to disturb the Peace & Tranquillity of Pennsylvania & form a Ground of publick Discussion we shall think ourselves authorized to notice them, but in this Instance we deemed ourselves bound to do so because you had particularly requested that if there was any Circumstance doubtful or which tended to countenance any Idea derogatory to you, to mention it—It is not our Intention to inquire into the Merits or Demerits of Mr. Rumford, we wish he had given less Cause of Offence, & from the Expression in your Letter of the 24, mentioned in the preceding Part of this we thought there had been but one Opinion with Respect to him—We cannot but still express our Wishes that he had not been continued in Employ without vindicating himself from the Charge in Letters, Affidavit, & we are persuaded upon farther Consideration you will alter your Sentiment as to the Propriety of retaining him in your Service till he was convicted of a Crime in due Course of Law. Would you retain a Domestick in your Service charged with Infidelity upon Oath untill all the Forms of Law are complied with & he was taken from your House to suffer the Punishment of his Offence. That Mr. Wade who is a Man of Veracity & in publick Employ informed you Rumford made an undue use of your Name has been asserted & not contradicted, & your Certificate conveys the same Idea. We therefore took this as an unquestioned Fact. We beg Leave also to set you right in your Ideas of legal Prosecution in this Case. Had the Flour been seized in the Act of Exportation it would have been forfeited but the Flour having most probably been carried off in Safety your waiting the Event of such a Prosecution was to wait for an Event which would never happen.—We can easily suppose a Stranger to our Laws & Customs may fall into such Errors very innocently. The same Unacquaintance may possibly have led you to call this Information a frivolous Pretence on which you could not charge your Agents; & If we were to hazard an Opinion on this Point it would be that the mere Accusation may not be sufficient to displace an Agent if supported by credible Testimony it would be sufficient to cause an Inquiry & suspend his Employ till he should remove the Suspicions. Indeed your own Sentiments seem in a great Measure to concur with ours when you say it would have been unjust to dismiss Rumford without Examination into his Conduct. But this Examination never having been made has in a Degree occasioned the present Discussion. We presume there has been an Inadvertency of Expression in calling the Information in this Case mere Report. No reasonable Person

could expect you to dismiss an Agent upon "mere Report," but surely Sir, an Oath of Facts & Information given you by a reputable Citizen & an Officer under Congress deserve more Attention than mere Report. In the official Transactions of this Country such has been deemed Evidence sufficient to suspend an Officer & we do not know that any bad Consequences have resulted. The Endeavours to prevent the Publications having been ineffectual nothing remains but to express our Disapprobation of them in which we include Rumfords which contains some Insinuations respecting the Alliance that we think very imprudent & unnecessary. We are persuaded he must in this Instance also have acted without your Countenance & Authority.

As you decline intermeddling with the Flour we shall comply with the Requisition of Congress thereupon.

We do not know of any other Means of repressing the Abuse of the Press than Prosecutions in a Court of Law which Congress by a Resolution of the Inst, recommended to this Board in the present Case, but on the 6th Inst, a Representation was laid before us from the Minister Plenipotentiary of France importing that the magnanimity & Friendship of the King of France did not permit him to insist upon the Execution of that Resolve & requesting Council to waive it unless it should appear absolutely necessary to the Congress or the Council. If it is your Desire notwithstanding that it shall be carried into Effect we shall not hesitate to give the necessary Directions.— Having in a former Letter expressed to you our Apprehensions that the procuring publick Supplies by Way of private Commerce during the Embargo will be attended with Difficulties & Embarrassments we have nothing farther to add upon that Subject. We shall be happy to find ourselves mistaken; Experience does not warrant us to say the Aid of publick Authority would not have been both proper & necessary, as well in the Manner as the Effect of procuring Supplies. Indeed we think it easy to demonstrate that while the highest Price is given & Exchange continually rising to support that Price it contributes to depreciate the Currency of the Country. However as we have not the least Desire to take an unnecessary or improper Burthen on ourselves we leave the Subject to your own Prudence & Government. We shall have Pleasure in conferring with you upon all Occasions, & are ready to receive any Communications you may be pleased to make of the Powers under which you act. We observe that Congress have thought proper to devise a general Mode of Communication on this subject. We hope that honourable Body will also define & mark out the Extent of the Powers & the Privileges annexed to them so as to obviate all farther Difficulties. We assure you we shall conform to them in their fullest Latitude.

We now Sir, beg Leave to conclude with a few general Observations calculated we hope to promote future Ease & Tranquillity & cement the Friendship of the two Countries so far as the State of Pennsylvania is concerned. When every Motive that can influence the human Mind must operate so powerfully to the contrary we can-

not help expressing great Concern that you should suppose the People of this City or State capable of Outrage or personal Insult to any Person in publick Office under his most Christian Majesty, if there Should be any just Cause for such Apprehensions be assured the Power & Disposition of publick Authority is equal to the Case. And while we express our fullest Determination to support you in the Exercise of your Functions you must allow us to express our Hope that they will be exercised with a due Respect to the Authority of the State & an Attention to the general Sentiment of the People—We cannot think such an Attention will by any Means derogate from the real Dignity of Office as it will at the same time endear your Character & facilitate your Measures. While we are anxious to support the Rights of publick Officers we are not insensible of our own. As administering the Government of a sovereign & independent State we shall think it our Duty to remark the Byass of publick Office & Character if ever it should be given in our domestick Concerns more especially if the Functions of such Character are local & confined to the State. And if such Cases should happen (which we hope never will) we shall esteem it our Duty in any Instance under that of the immediate Representative of a foreign Power to make such direct Representations as were suited to the Occasion. Relying upon the Justice, Wisdom & Friendship of such Power & more especially of his most Christian Majesty that they would be favourably received.

These are the unanimous Sentiments of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania in whose Behalf as well as my own I have the Honour of subscribing myself.

Sir,

Your most obed.

& very Hbbl Serv,*

Directed,

To the Honble Mr. Holker, Consul, &c, &c.

PRES. REED TO PRES. OF CONGRESS, 1779.

Philad. Council Chamber, Aug. 9, 1779.

Sir,

I have the Honour of transmitting you sundry Resolutions of the Board at which I have the Honour to preside. We have endeavoured to investigate the Business as referr'd to us upon the purest Principles of Justice & Impartiality & hope what we have done will be acceptable.

Sundry Letters having passed between this Board, Monsieur Ge-

* See answer p. 641.

rard & Mr. Holker we shall transmit them to the Delegates of the State to be laid before Congress if it is deemed necessary. In the mean Time we beg Leave to assure that Honourable Body that nothing shall be wanting on our Part to preserve that Harmony & good Correspondence which ought to subsist between Nations in Friendship & Alliance, & that we regard with great Concern every Event which calls off the Attention of Congress from the great & important Subjects of national Welfare to such Discussions as they have been engaged in on this Occasion.

I am &c.,

Sir, your most Obed.

& very Hbble Servt.

JOS. REED, President.

SEC'Y MATLACK TO JAMES CLAYPOOLE SHERIFF, 1779.

Sir,

His Excellency the President, & the Council order me to desire you to bring Cap^t Sutter Commander of the Vessel which put into this Port from S. Carolina, before the Council this evening at five o'clock, in order for his examination.

I am Sir,

your very humble Serv^t,

T. M., Sec'y.*

Philad., August 9, 1779.

Directed,

To James Claypoole Esq., Sheriff.

HON. JAMES THOMPSON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Lancaster County, Aug^t 9, 1779.

Respected Sir,

Since I came home I have engaged about Forty Barrels of Flower† in the Neighbourhood and might have had more at the same price if the Regulation which was entered into last week had been delay'd a little longer, but I dare not out bid the limited price which is 18£ and I think these that have grain or Flower will incline to hold it a while to see what force the Regulations are likely to have—a Load

* There is no notice of this matter on the minutes.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 77.

or two perhaps may be had at the limited price—as some Individuals will think it Honourable to conform—the plan held out by the City Committee for Stopping the Emissions is very generally aproven, though I am afraid it will not answer the end so effectually as is expected, the reasons of my fear is, the men that now possess the greatest Sums of money have in general the Smallest share of Virtue, and publick Spirit, and many of the farmers who wou'd wish to See the plan executed by others have very little money in hand or in their power, and will think it enough to pay one Years Tax. I have heard no more of the Reinforcement that was Talk'd of when I left Town, I hope that account is not True—the Bearers of this will call on You for money to pay the Flower herein mentioned Please to let me know whither I must send it by Newport or Immediately to Philad.—The price I bought at is Twenty Pound 30 Hundred—I applied at peach Bottom, there is grain there Considerable, but cannot be bought so low as in this County. The Fluxe are very General and Mortal in our Neighbourhood and two of my Children are under this Loathsome disorder as one of them seems dangerous, I will not get much abroad to Enquire for Wheat or flower, till an alteration takes place, Excuse Haste, from

Sir, your very Obedient

Humble Serv^t,

JAMES THOMPSON.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of Councill, Philadelphia.

Fav'd by the Rev'd }
Jno. Smith.

PRESIDENT REED TO MONS. GERARD, 1779.

In Council,

Philada., August 9th, 1779.

Sir,

We are extremely happy to find by your Favour of the 5^t Inst. that the Measures taken by this Board & the Assurances given are so acceptable, Be assured that we shall rejoice in every Opp^r to manifest and confirm them. The inclosed Resolutions we hope will fully demonstrate our Sentiments on the Subject referr'd to us, and we think we may with Confidence assure you that there is no Danger that such exceptionable Conduct will be again repeated. These Resolutions we have transmitted to Congress & directed to be published in the News Papers as the most publick Mode of Inform.

ation. But while we have been studious & even anxious to vindicate Mr Holker from undeserved Reproach we have taken the Liberty to put him on his Guard in some Particulars wherein he may unintentionally err & involve himself & us in disagreeable Discussions. We have no Doubt his good Sense & Candour will interpret them as the Cautions of Friendship rather than Marks of Distrust much less of Complaint.

We cannot close this Letter without expressing our Sense of the Generosity of Mind shewn in waving the Prosecution, the Reasons given will operate with us as fresh Inducements to rivet the Union & Interests of the two Countries by every Tye of Attachment & Affection, & remove far from us every Ground of unpleasant Discussion.

We cannot but think it will now be agreeable to you Sir, to bring this Business to an Issue, it is our Wish that it may be forgot or only remembered as having given an Opp^y to manifest mutual Affection & reciprocal Regard.

With the most lively Sentiments of Respect & Regard, I have the Honour to subscribe myself

Sir Your most obed.

& very Hbble Ser^t.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA, TO PRES. REED, 1779.

S^r,

Inclosed is the order for 15000 dollars sent to me by mistake.*

I sent off four of the recruits to Camp last saturday & hope they will arrive safe, the 5th deserted through the negligence of a corporal, for which he has been reduced, tho the man was passed the Gen^l. consequently no longer at the risque of the recruiting officer yet as a proof that I undertake the recruiting business more out of regard to the service than a prospect of profit I am willing to take the loss on myself tho I assure you the reward I have got for my anxiety & trouble, all losses & expences in recruiting five men deducted from the allowance, would not at present pay for half a bowl of punch.

Permit me to assure you that I am with respect,

S^r your most obed^t Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA.

August 9th, 1779.

Directed,

To the Hon^{le} George Bryan Vice President of the State.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 66, 68.

July 31st, 1779.

Received of David Rittenhouse Five Thousand Dollars in part of the within Order, 5000.

The within Order is cancelled agreeably to the direction of Council on the 9th Aug^t, 1779.

TY. MATLACK, Sec^y.

COL. JOHN BULL TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

In sinking y^e Shiverdefriex we find it Absolutely Necessary to have a Nother Shallop a Boat and three anchors and Cables &c., Which are not only Expensive Articles but Difcult to be Procur'd Council will Please to Determine wether it will not be Advisable to Grant an order upon the Quarter master, Coll. Mitchell, for those Articles or Give me their Directions how to Procure them. Which will Oblige

Their obed'ent Hu'bl Servt.

JN^o BULL.

Philada., August 9th, 1779.

*Directed.*His Excelency the Presidt. of y^e Honl. Executive Council &c.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Aaron Walsh late Captain of the Schooner Nancy, taken by the English, was carried into New York; which he left last Thursday, says, that being wounded he was permitted to remain a prisoner at large in the city where he was treated with much insolence & abuse by the refugees.

When coming out himself & baggage were carried by a guard to Gen. Patterson's, where every article belonging to himself & servant was most minutely examined; not a shirt, pair of stockings or any other particular left unopened, least any papers should be concealed.

Every stranger going into New York, by land or water, is obliged within 24 hours, to give his name to the officer of the police, & any

inhabitant receiving a stranger neglecting this is first sent to the provost, then turned out of the Lines.

The English are levelling all the works outside King's-bridge, within which they intend to draw their troops. They are strongly fortifying York, Staten & Governor's Islands.

Lord Cornwallis took the command the first instant. Sir Henry Clinton, Gov. Tryon & two other Genls. whose names he forgets, being recalled.

The Fleet that sailed up the sound was returned.

The Americans having brought down some heavy cannon to the shore, opposite a 60 gun ship that lay off New London, obliged her to cut her cables, but it being calm, she was much damaged before she could get out of gun-shot. This & a frigate are the only vessels of force left. Sir George Collier having sailed last Tuesday with 8 ships.

This day week a vessel arrived with the account of the action in the West Indies. Sir George Collier immediately seized all the papers found on board her. The Captain, when he landed, said the English fleet had been severely drubbed, on which he was carried before Genl. Patterson & all intelligence on this subject suppressed.

A few days before he left New York it was reported that the Americans in S. Carolina had taken two English galleys & some armed boats, & had got between their army & ships.

The Inhabitants in New York appear much alarmed & in great confusion. We heard that Verplank's point was evacuated.

Corpl. James Anderson, of the 71st, left King's-ferry, yesterday was a week. The English were repairing the works at Stony Point & made some more abattis at Verplank's; the garrison of the former consisted of the 42^a, 68^a, 64th & Companies of Fannings; at the latter of the 83 & about 160 of the 71st, Robinson's regt & 4 Companies of Fannings.

It was said among the soldiers that the Troops at Verplank's point were to be withdrawn, & only stony point to be garrisoned.

I am, with respect,

Your Excellencies

Most obedient Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Aug. 9, 1779.

Directed,

To his Excellency, Joseph Reed, President of the State.

JOHN CARSON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Carlisle, Aug^t 9th, 1779.

Your Letter by Mr. Agnew of the 6th of June,* I received in due time after the date thereof, together with Ten Thousand Dollars. I have applied it agreeable to your Direction, in purchasing hunting shirts, shoes, Legons, &c., for the Rangers, with as much frugality & Economy as was in my power. The Men are as yet without Blankets, nor is it possible to procure them in this part of the Country, and Unless you send them from below I am at a Loss to know how they will be supply'd. If you send them up to Me I shall forward them to the Troops as Quickly as possible. Mr. Thompson, the Muster Master, will be with you in a few Days, who can inform you how many Blankets will be wanted, as all the men that are Enlisted are without. I drew from Col. John Davis, D. Q. M. G., what Canteens & Camp Kettles were wanted, as I could not get them made here, and the men could not March without them.

I am, with Respect,

Your Excellency's Obt. &

Very h'ble Serv^t,JN^o CARSON.*Directed,*

On publick service.

To His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., Presid^t of the Supreme Executive Council.

Favoured by Mr. Power.

PRES. REED TO HON. THOMAS MCKEAN, 1799.

Council Chamber,

Aug^t 10th, 1779.

Sir,

We have been just informed that David Lenox has grossly insulted & abused Robert Smith, Esq., one of the Agents of forfeited Estates, in the Execution of his Office. We request you to take the most vigorous Measures on this Occasion, not only as the Honour but the Interest of the State is deeply concerned. It being our full Intention not only to vindicate the Officers of the Government, but support them with our utmost Weight & Influence.

* See page 470.

We are also informed that one Capt. Nichols or Nicholson, a Continental officer, had a Share in the Affray. If it should prove so we trust some other Notice may be taken of his Conduct besides that of the ordinary Course of Justice.

I am, Sir, with due Respect,
Your Obed. H^{ble} Servt.,

JOSEPH REED,
President.

DAVID HARRIS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Baltimore, 11th Aug^t, 1779.

Sir,

I received your Excellencies letter yesterday inclosing a Resolve of Council ab^t the Prothonotaries Office of Northumberland County, In which I'm concerned. As it is the Opinion of Council that I ought to reside in the County and exercise the Office myself, I beg your Excellency will inform them with pleasure I shall become a resident & execute the Duties. I deputed my Brother in July last, who now acts; he has the advice of a Gentleman Well acquainted with the nature of the Office, so that the business is not neglected; And as I have been for sometime in Trade must beg your Indulgence to remain in this place two or three Weeks in Order to close my Acc^{ts}. Your letter coming by way of Sunbury occasioned my not receiving it sooner, as Opportunities from that Quarter are not frequent. A successor may have been appointed in consequence of my not answering your letter sooner. I should esteem it as a particular favour to be Honored with a line ^{to} next post.

And am

With due respect,
Your Excellencies
Obedient H^{ble} Serv^t,

DAVID HARRIS *

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 75.

PRES. REED TO DELEGATES IN CONGRESS, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, August 11th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

I have the Honour of inclosing you a Resolution to which, from its Nature & importance, we have no Doubt you will pay an immediate Attention. The Merchants & Traders we have Reason to believe are already making Contracts for Flour, so that both Justice & Policy require they should have the earliest Notice of a Renewal of the Embargo if that should happen to be the Case. Should it not come to an immediate Decision we recommend it to you to move that it be kept secret, that Advantages may not be taken by one Trader of another & thereby Disgust given.

We need not remind you that very little new Wheat is yet thresh'd—or will be before October. So material a Circumstance will not escape your notice.

I am with due Consideration Gent.

Your most obed^t Hbble. Servt.

PRES. REED TO DELEGATES IN CONGRESS, 1779.

Gentlemen,

The Papers which accompany this are so voluminous that we would not send them so officially to Congress as to claim a Notice on your Journals. But as they shew that this Business is now brought to a happy Issue with Mons^r Gerard we deemed it a Matter of Duty & Respect to your Hon^r Board to lay the Papers before them in such a Manner as that if any of the Members thought it necessary to inspect them they might be enabled so to do.*

I am Gent. most respectfully

Your Obed. Hbble. Serv.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XII. p. 71.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

In Council,
Philadelphia, August 12th, 1779.

Gent.

We send you herewith the latest Accounts from the Frontiers.— We are sorry Genl. Sullivan should make Use of such incautious Expressions, and more especially as there is so little Reason for them. We gave him Expectations that the new raised Rangers would be sent to him, but the Superior Encouragement given to the Boat Service, in which there are 450 Men from Pennsylvania, has prevented that Corps even being filled to one quarter its Complim^t. It would have been idle to send him single Recruits, & the Officers had orders to join him as soon as their respective Companies should be in any tolerable Force. This having never happened, for the Reasons set forth in Col. Hunter's Letter, his Complaints are unreasonable.

In a Letter received from Col. Hubley, he says that a Body of Men might have been detached on this late Alarm without any Inconvenience, and it appears by the Geography of the Country that the Circuit round to the Rendezvous at Tioga would have been very trifling. The Pennsylvania Troops were desirous to be sent, & in all Probability the Consequences would have been inclosing the Indians between two Fires, as there are 500 Volunteers now in that Quarter. Instead of which he not only called off every Man he possibly could, but took away every Ounce of Ammunition, tho' earnestly requested to leave some for the Use of the Inhabitants. As the County is now broken up, & in a Manner ruined, it is less an Object of Concern, so as to induce us to run the State to as great Expence to guard the Ashes & Ruins of the Houses, but as the Susquehanna is the Channel of Communication with his Army, & must be kept open, which will be more & more difficult as he advances, we submit to your Consideration whether it will not be necessary to have a Body of Troops for this Purpose, especially to have a Strong Post at Sunbury, where there is now a great Stock of Provisions, & which must be the Magazine. If you agree with us in Opinion, & make a Requisition of such a Number of Men as you think necessary for the Purpose, we will call forth the Militia—for if the necessary Posts of Communication are not kept up, we think it impossible to prevent the Expedition being frustrated, not only with Loss & Disgrace, but perhaps the Destruction of the Troops engaged in it.

Submitting these Things to your most Serious Consideration, I remain,

Gent., Your Obed. Hbbl. Serv.

P. S. After Perusal, you will please to return the Papers, they being Originals.

To the H

W

MONS. HOLKER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, y^e 12th August, 1779.

Sir,

I was duly honored with your letter of the 9th,* to the Contents of which I shall pay the most Serious attention.

As I conceive that all further discussion upon the subject to which the aforesaid letter relates is unnecessary, I shall wave making any observation thereon.

Your Excellency may be persuaded I shall continue to exercise my Functions with all due respect to the authority of the State, in order to obtain the entire confidence & approbation of Government, as well as the affection of all the Inhabitants of Pennsylvania in general, & citizens of Philadelphia in particular.

I shall be glad to know when & where I can have the honor of conferring with you on the time & mode of presenting my Commission of Consul to the Supreme Executive Council, so as it may be recorded in the manner which may be deem'd the most proper; in the mean while Permit me to Subscribe my Self, with Respect,

Your Excellency's

Most devoted &

Very humble Servant,

HOLKER.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the State.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, August 12th, 1779.

Whereas, Francis, chevalier de la Nos, Jules Anne Le Moine, chevalier de Neufville, Julian Bouchaud, and Joseph Jacob du Petre, Subjects of his most Christian Majesty, have by due course of Law recovered judgment against John Douglass, late Commander of the privateer Schooner called the Hunter, by commission under Congress, for the sum of nine thousand seven hundred and eighty pounds for injuries they had sustained from the said John Douglass, while acting under pretext of his said Commission in seizing and taking the said Francis, Chevalier de la Nos, Jules Anne le Moine, Chev^r du Neufville, Julian Bouchaud, and Joseph Jacob du Petre, their Vessel & Cargo, and that since the said judgment was

* See page 628.

obtained, the said John Douglass hath absconded out of the State of Pennsylvania, and eluded the said judgment and prevented redress for the said injuries committed, therefore,

Resolved, That the bond given at the time the said John Douglass obtained his said Commission be put in suit, and that his said Commission be vacated & made void, and also that the said John Douglass be not admitted to hold any Commission under these United States on board any Ship or Vessel of War until such time as he shall surrender himself & abide the said judgment against him, or procure the same to be reversed or set aside by due course of Law.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

S^r

Col. Henry delivered me your Excellency's message yesterday, with the book,† which I have examined, & do not think any thing need be added to what you have selected, unless it be p. 57, Art. 3, 4 & 5, & the signals by drums in the 21 chap., which, I believe, should be known by the militia, as they are often of use.

When I removed from the country to this city, I was applied to to undertake disciplining the militia. I represented to the officers commanding battalions, that several of the evolutions their corps performed were merely for shew, & of little use on service. I was desired to draw up an account of what I thought necessary, which I did; and a meeting of the field officers was appointed to examine my performance—part was examined, & the meeting adjourned; but before the day appointed, I was seized with a nervous fever that confined me the whole winter. In spring, I resumed my task; & as Congress had then raised some regular troops, I made some additions to the work relative to field & garrison duty. I beg leave to send you a copy, & to assure your Excellency that I am, with respect,

S^r, Your most hum^{ble}

& obed^t Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA.

Aug^t 12th, 1779.

Directed,

To his Excel^l, Joseph Reed, President of the State.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 75.

† Probably Baron Steuben's on military discipline, of which the State printed 1000 copies. Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 78.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Aug^t 12th 1779.

Sr,

I beg you will inform his Excel^y, the President, & the Hon^{le} Executive Council, that Lt. Gibbons has been put under an arrest by order of the Board of War, & is to go to camp this day under the care of Lt. White.

Also, that one of the recruits last raised who deserted, has been taken this morning.

I am, Sr,

your very hum^{le} Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Directed,

To Col. Matlack, or acting Secretary in Council.

GEN. DANL. ROBERDEAU TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philad^a, Aug^t 12th, 1779.

Sir,

An answer to your Excellency's favor of yesterday was delay'd until I could consult the Committee that presented a plan* to your Excellency, and the Hon^{le}, the Supreme Executive Council, for restoring the paper Currency in Circulation to credit; and I am now warranted to assure you, that said Plan does not mean to comprehend any other Tax than Continental. I am, most respectfully,

Sir, Y^r most obedientvery hum^{le} Serv^t,

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

In Council.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 67, also p. 621 of this Volume.

BENJ. G. EYRE, &c., TO PRES. REED, 1779.*

Philadelphia, August 12th, 1779.

Sir,

We, the subscribers, having it under consideration, the taking up several Vessels* sunk in the river Delaware by the Chevaux D' Freeze, while this City was in possession of the Enemy; and as the same will be attended with very considerable expence, We have taken the liberty before we proceed farther, to request the favour of your Excellency to lay this business before the Hon^{ble} the Executive Council, In order to be informed whether we have the Sanction of that Honourable Body in this undertaking That we may govern ourselves accordingly.

Which will in a particular manner oblige,

Sir, Your most obedient

and most hum. Serv^t,

BENJAMIN G. EYRE,
W^m TURNBULL for self and
GEORGE HENRY, ⁱⁿ order,
JA^s CRAIG, jun.,
JN^s PATTON.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq^r, Prest.

LETTER OR OPINION OF C. J. McKEAN TO PRES. REED,
1779.

Sir,

The Supreme Executive Council have been pleased to inform me, that divers persons late inhabitants of this State have been taken at Sea in arms against the United States, on board of vessels commissioned by the Enemy, to make prizes of the Ships of this and the other Confederated States, and that they are now in confinement, either for trial and punishment, or to exchange, and have requested me to take into consideration the case of the said prisoners, and give my opinion how far they are liable as traitors or pirates, and by what means they may be brought to justice, distinguishing if necessary between the predicament of such as joined the enemy before the declaration of Independence, the new Establishment of civil Government or any other Era I may judge material.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 76.

Notwithstanding the difficulty and importance of the subject matter of this Act of Council as I conceive it requires an immediate answer, I will humbly submit the following.

I shall take it for granted at this day, that all the *subjects* of Pennsylvania of the age of discretion, and of sane memory, male or female, may be guilty of treason, and that no offence can be adjudged High Treason unless it be clearly and without argument or influence within the meaning of some *Act of Assembly*, for no such act can be extended by Equity.

It appears clear, that every person inhabiting, residing or sojourning within the limits of Pennsylvania on the 11th day of February 1777, or at any time since, (except prisoners of war) owed allegiance to this State.

It seems also clear that Treason, being an offence against *Government and tending to its dissolution*, could not be committed in Pennsylvania until a new *Government* was formed, and then by persons owing allegiance thereto.

It may admit of some doubt, at what precise time a new Government was formed in Pennsylvania, for on the 14th day of May, 1776, all authority under the King of Great Britain ceased, which has been since so declared by an Act of the Commonwealth, tho' there was no compleat declaration of Independence untill the 4th day of July following, and some may argue that all civil power or authority on the declaration of the said 14th of May, immediately vested in the Committees, Conventions and in Congress, others that it did not so vest until the declaration of absolute Independence, and perhaps it may with as much weight be said, that the civil power of the community was not properly and fully delegated until the election held after the Dissolution of the General Convention for establishing the new Constitution.

I am aware that the Convention passed an Ordinance for the punishment of treason, &c., but as they were chosen by the people for *another purpose*, and I do not find that their Ordinance has been since confirmed or recognized by the Legislature, it appears to me not advisable to proceed upon it in the courts of Justice.

Upon the whole I think it the safer course in so unprecedented and doubtful a case to consider all the late inhabitants of this State taken in open war as enemies and prisoners of war, who did not on the 11th day of February, 1777, or since owe allegiance to this State, as Treason was not accurately defined or declared by the Legislature until that period.

As to the manner of bringing to justice traitors, pirates, &c., offending upon the Sea, it is clearly pointed out by the 15th & 16th sections of the act of General Assembly, intituled "an Act for establishing a court of Admiralty" passed the ninth day of September last, so far as respects such offences committed after that time, to wit, that they may be tried for the same in any court of Oyer &

Terminer held for the City of Philadelphia before the Justices of the
supream court, and the Judge of the Admiralty for the time being.

I am Sir,

with the utmost regard

your Excellency's & the Council's

most obedient humble servant

THO. MoKEAN.*

Philadelphia, August 13th, 1779.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Three deserters part of five mentioned in the pass the other two
having staid in the Jerseys from the Loyal Volunteers of Ireland left
York island last saturday evening by swimming over the North
River, for which purpose they put their clothes in their overalls &
tied these round their necks. The body of the army is on the island
where works are throwing up from river to river between Kings-
bridge & fort Washington, those outside Kings-bridge are demolish-
ing. Some armed vessels are stationed in the river at every place
where it can conveniently be crossed from Stony-point to the City.
A fleet with reinforcements has been long expected, but none yet
arrived. The informants did not hear any thing of the Sea engage-
ments. When they deserted Sir Henry Clinton, still commanded
but was to be succeeded by Lord Cornwallis. Desertion has been
very great but must decrease while the army continues on the island
from the difficulty of getting off. These men never received any
pay, 2½ p^r day is stopped for rations & the remainder is consumed
for extra clothing, washing &c.

I am

with respect

your Excellencies

Most Humble & obd^t Serv^t

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Aug^t 14th, 1779.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 74.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

(Circular.)

Philadelphia, 14 Aug, 1779.

Sir,

Congress have deemed it highly necessary to inform you that the Enemy have exerted themselves to send out a very considerable reinforcement to their army now in America. Seven thousand were destined hither from Europe, and three thousand from the West Indies. The operations in the place last mentioned may perhaps prevent the arrival of those Troops, but there is no solid reason to expect that the European Reinforcements will not arrive.

It is proper you should be informed that our Allies were much concerned to find that preparations were not earlier made for a vigorous Campaign. The exertions of America are necessary to obtain the great objects of the alliance, her Liberty, Sovereignty, and Independance. The Barbarities already exhibited by the Enemy, and their avowed determinations to give a still greater scope to their Ravages are additional motives to our endeavours. Congress are fully convinced, therefore, that you will comply with their earnest wishes to prepare for the most immediate & most vigorous operations, particularly by filling up your Battalions, and having the Militia of your State ready to march at the shortest warning. It is highly probable that circumstances may soon call them forth to operate offensively, & it is hoped & expected with such Energy & Effect as to free these States from their Hostile Invaders.

I have the Honor to be, with great Respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

JOHN JAY, Presid^t.

His Excellency President Reed.

P. S.—A Copy of an Act of Congress of the 12th Inst., against John Douglass, late Commander of the Privateer Schooner called the Hunter, is herewith enclosed.*

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 75

SEC'Y MATLACK TO MONS. GERARD, 1779.

Philadelphia, August 16, 1779.

Sir,

The Council have ordered that the Bells of the City be rung on the approaching birth day of his Majesty of France; some rockets will be thrown, and other demonstrations of joy, consistent with strict frugality, will be exhibited, sufficient to engage the attention of the people, and introduce the custom of rejoicing on the anniversary of a day so auspicious to America.

Altho', as Secretary, I have no orders to communicate this, yet it appears to be proper that you should know it. Your Excellency will therefore pardon me for troubling you with it.

I am, with greatest respect,

Your Exc'y Most obedient
humble Servant

T. M., Sec'y.

Exc'y The Sieur Gerard, Minister Plenip., &c.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Thomas Pralt, who deserted with five others last Wednesday night from the Hunter sloop of war, lying as a guard ship in the Hook, informs me that Sir George Collier, who sail'd some time since, but does not recollect the day, had under his command one ship of 74, two of 50 guns, two frigates & some smaller vessels, & was supposed to be gone on a cruize to Boston Bay & had taken as many men as possibly could be spared from the Hunter. Lately, four armed victuallers arrived from Cork, & last Tuesday a large ship, supposed to be of 50 guns came in. They had intelligence on board the Hunter of the loss of the grenades, but were told the English had gained a victory at sea over the French in the West Indies.

I am, with respect,

Your Excellencies

Most Obed^t Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Aug^t 16th, 1779.*Directed,*

His Excellency Joseph Reed, President to the State.

* See answer, p. 651.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, Aug^t 16, 1779.

Sir,

We have the Honor to return the Papers on the melancholy state of your Frontiers. They should have been sent before this, but we had not received them from Congress, before whom we laid them, with a Report on their Contents, of the Result whereof we have not yet been informed.

We are, with great Respect,
Your very obed. Serv^{ts}.

RICHARD PETERS,
By order.

Directed,

On public Service.

Hon^{ble} George Bryan, Esq., V. President S. E. Council of Pennsylvania.

War Office.

ALEX. SCAMMELL, A. G., TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

Head Quarters,

West Point, Aug^t 18, 1779.

Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 10th instant, I am to inform you that the Commander in Chief has directed me to keep Officers at the several Hospitals where the sick of the Army are, to keep the soldiers in proper subjection, send the recovered men off under proper officers to their respective Regiments, and send monthly lists of the sick to the Orderly Office. The reasons inducing such a regulation are, that the soldiery when sent to the Hospitals will not pay proper attention to the orders of the Surgeons, and that previous to this regulation the men when discharged were sent without proper officers to the Army, by which means they frequently straggled into the Country and deserted.

Col. Proctor last Winter had the general superintendency of the sick in the Pennsylvania Hospitals, and at my request sent one of his officers to the Yellow Springs.

When he desired to be relieved, he inform'd me that he had left
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one of his Officers who was in a bad state of health at the Yellow Springs, and as I commonly send such officers to the Hospitals whose state of health renders them unfit for field service, I tho't proper not to send any officer to relieve the Captain 'till he informed me of his recovery, by which means he has continued on that duty 'till this time.

I am, Sir, your

Obedient Servant,

ALEX'D. SCAMMELL, A. G^t.

Directed,

(Public Service.)

P. Scull, Esq., Secretary to the Board of War, Philadelphia.

PRES. REED TO COUNTY LIEUTENANTS, 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a, August 18th, 1779.

Since we wrote you on the Inst., the Hon^e the Congress have passed the inclosed Resolve, which we hope will be fully complied with. From the Force Genl. Sullivan has, as well as the Mode of War pursued by the Savages, it is most probable that the Enemy instead of meeting him in Front will harass his Rear, & endeavour to cut off his Communication & Supplies; it is therefore of the utmost Importance to the general as well as particular Interests of this State to make such Exertions as may preserve this important Object, and as the Militia of the City are now and have been all Summer doing Duty on the unhealthy Islands of the Delaware, we hope that a like Spirit will animate our Friends in the Country preserve the Honour of the State & protect the remaining Inhabitants of the Frontiers. As we have every Reason to hope that these are the last Struggles of expiring Malice & Tyranny, we trust a suitable Spirit will shew itself so as to give lasting Peace & Tranquillity to those suffering & distressed Counties. To prevent mistakes we would inform you that it is not intended to call out any more Militia than those ordered on the Inst., but to hasten you in the Execution of their Orders.

I am with due Regard Sir,

Your Obed. & very Hbble Ser.*

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XII., p. 74.

MONS. GERARD TO SEC'Y MATLACK, 1779.

Philadelphie, le 18 Aout, 1779.

Monsieur,

L'avis que vous voules bien me donner de la resolution du Conseil executif concernant des rejoissances pour le jour de la naissance du Roi, me fait un plaisir infini, parceque c'est un nouveau temoignage des sentimens les plus agreables pour votre allié. Il exige en même tems toute ma reconnaissance personnelle pour votre attention obligeante et pour les motifs respectables qui vous l'ont dictié. J'espère que je serai informé du tems et du lieu où le feu d'artifice sera tiré afin de pouvoir m'y trouver.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec la consideration la plus distinguée.

Monsieur, Votre très humble et très

obéissant serviteur,

M. Matlack.

GERARD.*

PRES. REED TO CHARLES HALL, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 14th Inst. has been duly received. As there have been sundry Mistakes made with Regard to Persons supposed to have gone off with the Enemy, which are rectified with great Difficulty & Loss of Time, we shall wait till you have had Oppⁿ to make full Inquiry after Abraham Ream, & if you find the Account given by Boyer to be true, & certify it to us, we will insert his Name in the Proclamation, which will entitle you to proceed ag^t him as in common Cases. The Clerk has been directed to make out the List of attainted Persons in Lancaster County, which will be forwarded to you with all Expedition.

I am sorry it is not in my Power to send you the Determination of Council on the Case of Donally, but it is a standing Rule of the Board not to decide upon any applications for Pardon or Remission of Punishments unless a certified Copy of the Judgment signed by the Clerk also accompanys it—the Reasons for this Caution are too obvious to need mentioning. As soon as that comes to Hand an Answer will be sent to the Request, & it will most probably be granted.

I am Sir,

Your Friend & Hbble Serv.,

J. REED.

Indorsed Aug. 19.

Directed,

To Charles Hall, Esq^r, of Lanc^r.

* See the letter to which this is the answer on p. 648.

CAPT. JOHN MCGINLEY TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To the Honorable the Supreme Executive Council.

May it Please the Council,

The Inclosed as a Bill for 'Iron Work made down at Fort Island in the Months of May & June, Which I Transmitted to Col. Bull: he refused to pay it, and wrote on the Back on it the Proposals as there Stated.

The same Workmen that worked there Receiv'd before & Since in Philadelphia Eight Dollars $\frac{2}{3}$ Day and their Rations for Blacksmith's Work in the Continental Service under my Direction, & I found the Iron, Coal and Tools, for which Col. Bull makes no allowance. The Bill is drawn Out equal to the prices for Continental Work of the same kind, & I have already paid the Men 8 Dollars $\frac{2}{3}$ Day. I beg leave to Referr the Matter to Council,*

& have the Honour to be

Their very humble Serv^t,

JOHN MCGINLEY,

Cpt. of Artelary.

Aug^t 19th, 1779.

DAVID JAMESON TO SEC'Y MATLACK, 1779.

York-Town, Aug^t 19th, 1779.

Sir,

My not receiving your letter of the 11th of July till the 26th, the day before our court, which I was obliged to attend.—Mr. Brooks, the Town Major, who had signed lately most of the returns for rations, being at the time in Philadelphia, and my bad state of health prevented me from making such further inquiry into Mr. McCalister's behaviour as I in compliance to the desire of Council wished to do.

You may judge how disagreeable and difficult an inquiry of this sort must be when I inform you that your letter was delivered to me opened by Mr. Jacob Eikleberger the 28th, who owned he received the 26th by the hands of a stranger. When the people who had been active in enquiring into Mr. McCalister's conduct, and had ignorantly, and through a suspicion of his being powerfully

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 80, 83.

supported against a prosecution, signed a writing obliging them to stand by one another, was threatened by the chairman of the Committee to be indicted as Barretters and Conspirators, and an action brought against one of them by the same gentleman in behalf of Mr. McCalister.—When he has had the possession of the stores 'till within these few days, or at least the receipt for delivering them over not signed a short time agoe.—When three men of Credit was turned off the grand Jury because they were thought to be evidences against Mr. McCalister.—When, although the bill was found by the grand jury, he was not tryed but Recognized to answer at next court.

Notwithstanding those difficulties I intend to make all the discoveries I can, and as soon as possible inform the Council thereof. But if I could be certain whether the president of the council received two letters sent by Capt. Hautin, one signed by Mr. Eikleberger and me, the other signed by self, I would know better how to proceed.

I am Sir,

your most Humble Serv^t,

DAVID JAMESON.*

Directed.

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary to the Council in Philadelphia.

MONS. GERARD TO PRES. REED, 1779.

A Philadelphie, le 19 Aout, 1779.

Monsieur,

Ayant été informé que Votre Excellence croit convenable que ma Commission de Consul Général de France en Amérique avec pouvoir d'y établir des Consuls soit enregistrée au Conseil Executif de Pensylvanie, Cette formalité ne m'a pas paru nécessaire n'ayant aucune fonction à exercer auprès de cet Etat, attendu l'établissement d'un Consul et d'un Vice Consul dans ce Port. Cependant je me porte à prier Votre Excellence de vouloir bien présenter au Conseil et faire enregistrer la copie vidimée ci jointe de mon titre, ainsi que je me porterai toujours à tout ce qui pourra vous plaire et être une marque de mes respectueux égards pour l'Etat et pour le

* See pages 529, 530.

Corps auquel vous presides. J'ai l'honneur d'être avec une respectueuse consideration.

Monsieur

De Votre Excellence

Le très humble et très

obeissant serviteur,

GERARD.

Directed,

S. E. M^r Le President de Pensylvanie.

Copie.

Provisions de Consul General de France à Boston et autres Ports
—appartenans aux Etats Unis de l'Amerique Sep^{te} pour le S^r
Gerard.

Louis par la grace de Dieu Roi de France et de Navarre, a tous ceux qui ces presentes lettres verront Salut: Estimant necessaire de creer une charge de notre Consul General a Boston et autres Ports appartenans aux Etats Unis de l'Amerique Septentrionale et voulant traiter favorablement le S^r Gerard, nous avons cru ne pouvoir faire un meilleur choix que de sa Personne pour bien remplir les fonctions de cette charge par la connoissance que nous avons de son zele et affection a notre service et aux interets de nos sujets et de son intelligence et capacite dans les affaires de mer. A ces causes et autres, à ce nous mouvant, Nous avons le d^t S^r Gerard nommé et établi et par ces presentes signées de notre main, le nommons et etablissons notre Consul General à Boston et autres Ports appartenans aux Etats Unis de l'Amerique Septentrionale, avec pouvoir d'établir des Consuls et Vice Consuls dans le lieux ou il les jugera necessaires; pour la dite charge avoir, tenir, exercer, en jouir, et user pendant le tems qu'il nous plaira, aux honneurs, autorités, preéminences, prerogatives, privileges, exemptions, droits, fruits, profits, revenus et émolumens qui y appartiennent, tels et semblables que ceux dont jouissent nos autres Consuls généraux. Faisons défenses à tous Négocians françois et toutes personnes naviguant sous la banniere de France, de le troubler dans la jouissance, fonctions, et exercice du dit Consulat. Enjoignons A tous Capitains, Maitres et Patrons de Vaisseaux Barques et autres Batimens, armés et naviguant sous la dite Banniere, comme à tous nos sujets de reconnoitre le d^t S^r Gerard et lui obeir en cette qualité. Prions et requerons nos Très Chers et Grands Amis et Alliés Le Congrès des Etats Unis de l'Amerique Septentrionale, ses Gouverneurs et autres officiers qu'il appartiendra de laisser jouir pleinement et

paisiblement le dit S^r Gerard et les Consuls et Vice Consul qu'il établira dans la dite charge, sans leur faire, ne souffrir qu'il leur soit fait aucun trouble ni empêchement mais au contraire de leur donner toute faveur et assistance, offrant d'en faire de même pour tous ceux qui nous seront ainsi recommandés de leur part. En temoin de quoi Nous avons fait mettre notre scel secret à ces presentes. Donné à Versailles ce 28 Mars del 'An de Grace 1778, et de notre Regne le Cinquieme.

Signé LOUIS.

et sur le replis est écrit, par le Roi.

Signé, DE SARTINE.

Pour copie conforme à l' original a Philadelphie 19 Aout, 1779.

GERARD.

SHERIFF HERTZEL TO LT. SHOEMAKER, 1779.

(Copy.)

Northampton County, August the 20, 1779.

Sir,

Herewith I give you my Reasons which you have demanded from me in Writing for not taking the Executions from you for the delinquents of the four first Classes of the Militia.

The Militia men as I am informed through the Battalions of this County are highly Alarmed and much enraged and not allow themselves by no means to be delinquents, and therefore wont suffer no sheriff Constable or any other fit person to serve any Executions on them as such delinquents by no means for they sent out their quota of men what Council demanded therefore I am Well Convinced that I would be in danger to undertake to go against such a large Body of Militia men.

from your Hu^s Ser,

JONAS HERTZEL, Sheriff.

Directed,

To Jacob Shoemaker Sub. Leiu^t.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 78, 80.

TIMOTHY PICKERING TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, August 20, 1779.

Sir,

I, beg leave to inclose to your Excellency the declarations of two New-England seamen, who were impressed on board the ship General Greene belonging to this state, exhibiting such a scene of inhumanity as I could not view without astonishment. It is difficult to repress one's indignation at such cruel treatment of free citizens of the United States. We have long expressed our horror at the barbarous spirit of the British, who have been starving & confining in irons & dungeons the freemen of America to force them to enter into their service. It could be little expected that while these complaints were in our mouths, & the groans of the wretched captives were still sounding in our ears, that American Officers should exercise the same unwarrantable and infamous practises towards their own countrymen, and in the case of Wagner, upon a sailor of singular worth & bravery. But the narrative needs no comment.—Wagner is here a stranger—the prize ship he belonged to was owned by a relation of mine & some others, all my townsmen & particular friends, The connection led him to me for assistance. I thought it my duty to yield it: it would be due to any citizen of the United States suffering under the hand of such a cruel oppressor. Great objections lie to a civil prosecution; and Wagner has too much spirit to ask or receive a pecuniary satisfaction. He wishes a stop may be put to such tyranny, and a proper punishment inflicted on the present offender, Castwind. He is an officer of the State, and subject to the power of your Excellency and the honourable the supreme executive council. I beg leave to submit the matter to your wisdom & justice, not doubting that so cruel & wanton an abuse of power will be properly resented by your Excellency & the honourable board, and exemplary punishment inflicted on the offenders: only observing, that if the practice complained of were permitted to go on, the harmony now subsisting between the several states in the Union, & which tis so important to cultivate, would be endangered, and mutual acts of cruelty probably take place.—Capt. Montgomery informs me he was induced to detain these men because they were *New Englandmen*, "thinking tham a valuable acquisition." but, sir, you can hardly conceive of their horror at the barbarous usage Wagner received on board the General Greene. Nothing but the threat of instant death would induce them to enter into service on board a ship where officers are capable of such inhumanity—an inhumanity (as they say) which was not confined to them, but reached the whole ships crew. Such is their abhorrence, excited by the usage on board this ship, that hardly any consideration would prevail on them even to sail out of the port. Greene says he was

during five years on board different Britishmen of war, & has sailed in the ships of half the nations of Europe: but never before saw such barbarous & arbitrary severity of discipline as was uniformly practised on board the General Greene, particularly by lieutenant Castwind.—As these two sailors will in a few days set out for New England, you will permit me to request that their complaint may be noticed as speedily as possible.

I have the honour to be
with great respect
your Excellency's
most obedient Servant.

TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President &c.

MARINE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779

Philadelphia, August 20th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Excellency's favour of yesterday is now before us.*

It gives us great concern to hear that "a spirit of Insolence and Outrage manifests itself in the Officers & men of the Continental Vessels," and your Excellency may rest assured that this Committee will discountenance every attempt of the officers & men under their direction to treat the Magistracy or any Persons in the execution of office with insult & Contempt.

We find ourselves embarrassed with the particular Cases referred to in your Excellency's Letter; as on the One hand, to pass censure on those Officers, without hearing them in their defence would be considered as an act of injustice; and having no Authority to call before us any Citizens of this State whereby we might come to a thorough knowledge of the Merits of the Case Stated, an ex parte enquiry might lead to a partial decision on the other hand: we therefore hope that the civil Power will effectually redress the injuries complained of, and, we trust, prevent the like in future.

We are with much Esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient

Hble Servants.

W^m WHIPPLE, Chairman.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed esq^r, President of Pennsylv

* Not found.

PRES. REED TO JUSTICES OF PHILADELPHIA 1779.

Council Chamber, Aug. 20, 1779.

Gentlemen,

The Case you laid before us on Wednesday has been duly considered and as it will allways give us Satisfaction to facilitate your Duty & render the Magistracy as effectual & respectable as the Interests of Society & the Justice to your own Characters & Feelings require I shall with Pleasure communicate to you the Sentiments of the Board thereon.

As to any Claim derived by Hucksters or any other Persons under those to whom the Stalls are lett to occupy them on other than Market Days it appears to us to be groundless and as the Wardens of the City have the Care & Custody of the Stalls, they have a Right & undoubtedly upon a proper Representation will exercise it to prevent any pretended Claim under them being used to the Prejudice or Disturbance of the faithful & quiet Inhabitants of the City.

But as to any such Disturbances or Nusances you unquestionably possess the Power & it is your Duty to suppress them, for even a Right is not to be used to the Disturbance & Injury of the publick. The Wardens therefore exercising their Rights with Respect to the Stalls & supported by your Authority in preserving the Peace & Tranquillity of the City will most probably be fully sufficient to answer the desired End.

With much Esteem & Regard

I remain Gents.

Your Obed. & very

Hbble Serv^t,

JOS. REED, President.*

Indorsed,

Aug^t 21st, To the Worshipfull the Justices of the City of Philadelphia.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 80.

PRES. REED TO CAPT. CLUGGAGE, 1779.

Philad., Aug. 20, 1779.

Sir,

It is with some Concern we find you have not yet made any Return of your Transactions in recruiting your Company of Rangers. I desire you would immediately transmit a Return of your Company and as we have been informed you have indulged them in going to their own Houses we must inform you that such a Proceedure if it be true is very disagreeable to us & disreputable to you : & more especially as Gentlemen of Note in the County are complaining to us that their Protection is neglected & the County suffering—Surely there must be something wrong in this Business which you must endeavour to rectify without Delay. Upon the Receipt of this therefore we require you to embody your Company & take such Station as Col. Piper shall think most for the Interest of the County & the Frontier generally—And we recommend to you to exert yourself to satisfy the just Expectations of the publick and render the Services for which the Corps was raised.

I am Sir, with due Regard

Your Obed. Hbble Serv^t.

P. S. Mr Canon of Carlisle is provided with sundry necessaries for which you are to apply to him.

PRES. REED TO JOHN CARSON, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 9th Inst,* has been duly received, and we are well pleased with your Care in purchasing such Articles as can be procured for the Rangers, You will please to go on in the Business & complete them as far as possible. Blankets cannot be got here, Mr. Thompson has searched the Town thro' without Success, he will give you an Account of what he has procured which is to be delivered into your Care & distributed to the Troops in due Proportions.

I am Sir, Your Friend

& Hbbl Serv^t,

JOS. REED,

Presid^t.

Aug. 21.

Directed,

Mr. John Carson.

* See page 637.

PRES. REED TO GEORGE WALL, Esq., 1779.

In Council,
Philad^a, August 21st, 1779.

Sir

In Answer to your Favour received yesterday I send you the Opinion of the Att^y Gen^l.—Which you will make such use of as you think prudent & proper. Our Advice is that you set up the Interest of Joseph Galloway be it more or less, for it is said there has been some Settlement of which the Purchaser will take the Benefit. If the Purchaser does Waste he must do it at his Peril, we would have you neither give Permission to cut Timber nor the contrary but to sell the Interest as above the Purchaser to take what the Law will permit him to take.

We send you a Copy of a Resolution passed this Board this Week to which we doubt not you will conform.

I am Sir, Your

Friend & very

Hbbl Serv^t.*

Directed,

To Gen Wall, Esq., Agent for forfeited Estates Bucks County.

COL. WALTER STEWART TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Camp at West Point, August 21st, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I think it necessary to Explain to your Excellency the motives which Induced the Board of Field Officers who were appointed to enquire into the Claim of Rank made by Lieut. Broadhead; to determine that it would be improper to admit him as a Captain in the 4th Regiment.

The same Board had been of a long standing at Middle Brook, in Order to give those Officers who were unfortunately taken Prisoners an opportunity of laying in their Claims, during this time Capt^m Judor, Betting, and many others made their applications, and were placed in those Situations to which they had a right, but the claim of Lieut. Broadhead never appear'd, and it was a conceiv'd opinion amongst the Officers, that Mr. Broadhead had no Intention of agai

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 77.

Joining the Army, but on the Contrary that he was in Trade, and making a fortune in Philad^a.

This Idea we carried with us untill the application to your Excellency from this Gentleman appear'd Accompanied by your certificate to him; but unfortunately Congress had put it out of our power to do any thing in his favour, by a resolve they Pass'd Excluding all Prisoners from Joining the army unless Provided for Previous to a Certain day, which had Pass'd some time before Mr. Broadhead, or his application appear'd in the Army.

In consequence of this Resolve, all the Vacancy's in the 4th Reg^t had been fill'd up, and its situation so fixed in the opinion of its Officers, that the greatest Confusion must have ensued from an alteration being made in it.

I formerly served in the Regiment with Mr. Broadhead, a strong attachment to which made me anxious all the officers should be taken care off, and proper provision made for them; the other Gentlemen who had been Exchanged, either Personally or by letter demanded the field Officers Interested to have Justice done them, not so with Mr. Broadhead, although many of us had been frequently in his company at Philad^a, we could not find that he had ever exprest the least desire to any of us, of again Joining the Army, but as I observed before, seemed Involved in Business, and speculation.

The Cause of my troubling your Excellency on this subject is to give you a proper Idea of the reasons for which his request was not granted, as I have heard Mr. Broadhead has exprest Sentiments respecting this Board of Officers, which must have arose from a great mistake, as I can assure your Excellency it was the wish of every Member to Gratify Mr. Broadhead could they have done it Consistent with the rules of Propriety and Justice; Especially as your Excellency exprest a desire this young Gentleman should again be admitted into the Line.

I Congratulate your Excellency on the great Success of Count D'Estang in the West Indies, as also on an affair which took place a few days Past, which must give additional Credit to the Enterprize of the American Troops.

The British have always kept a Post at Powles Hook, since their having Possession of New York; the Garrison varied at different times much in Numbers, on the 16th It consisted of near 200, and as his Excellency Gen. Washington had accounts that British Secourty had taken place amongst them, he Order'd Major Lee to attempt a Surprise on them with a chosen Party, this he Executed with great address, and it is said has brought off 150 Prisoners, the particular number of officers, or their ranks we have not yet learned, the situation of this Post was so favourable to the Enemy, and so difficult of Access that it redounds great Honour on Major Lee and his Party.

I Cannot conclude this letter without assuring your Excellency, that the officers and Soldiers have a Just sense of your endeavour to keep us Supplied with the necessaries of life, and I can assure your

Excellency that your attention to us, occasions a Gratitude which I hope we shall ever Retain.

I have the Honour to be
 with the greatest Esteem,
 and respect, Your
 Excellency's most
 obed^t Humble Servant,
 WALTER STEWART.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the Hon^{ble} Executive Council of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 22nd Aug, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honor of informing you that the Honble the Sieur Gerard has laid before Congress a commission from his most Christian Majesty appointing him Consul General of France in the United States of America with power to appoint Consuls & Vice Consuls, and that in virtue thereof he did on the 15th day of July, 1778, appoint the Sieur John Holker, Inspector General of the commerce & manufactures of France to be Consul in the Ports of Pennsylvania—and on the 19th day of September, 1778, did appoint the Sieur Martin Oster to be Vice Consul of France in the Ports of Pennsylvania—These appointments have been made known to & approved of by Congress, and with the said Commission are duly registered in the Secretary's office.

I have the honor to be
 with great Respect,
 your Excellency's
 most obedient and
 Humble Servant,
 JOHN JAY, Presid^t †

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 88.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 89. See page 654 of this.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Three sailors belonging to a victualler, deserted from New York last saturday was a week say that the thursday before a packet was arrived & some of the sailors informed John Wilkens one of the informants, that they left a fleet at sea with 700 troops which they supposed would arrive in two or three days, that a large fleet was fitting out at Portsmouth but sailors much wanted, he thinks they said 6 or 7 thousand.

These men lost themselves for two days between North & Hakensac rivers & on Monday morning from the top of a mountain, saw a fleet of about 23 sail going up to New York & some more vessels in sight from the distance they could not well distinguish the nature of the vessels, but think most of them had topsails, They saw a woman on the road, who left N. York since they did, & was coming to this place who informed them the fleet arrived was said to be from Georgia (I am informed that the mate of a vessel lately exchanged who arrived here last saturday says he saw the fleet from the prison ship & that every vessel had soldiers on board, I have fruitlessly endeavoured to see the man, & cannot learn whether he is still in town) Wilkens does not think the packet above mentioned is that which was taken by Capt. Taylor.

Preparations are making in N. York for an expedition said to be for this place. It was reported that L^d Cornwallis was gone to sea with a 74 & two frigates, that the troops were withdrawing from the forts up the North river, many were drawing near & encamping in the neighbourhood of the city.

Eighteen or twenty days since a french gentleman with a considerable some of money & two regulars attempted to escape, but they were taken & sent to the prevost some days before these men came off Wilkens saw a man just arrived from Philadelphia who informed him the forts on the river were repairing.

I am with respect,

Your Excellencies

most obedient Servant,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Aug^t 23d, 1779.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 24th Aug^t, 1779.

Sir,

You will receive, herewith enclosed, a copy of an Act of Congress of the 17th Inst.,* on the Subject of further Provision for the Army.

So many Reasons point out the justice and Propriety of this measure, that there can be no Room to doubt its receiving all the Attention due to the Importance of it.

I have the honor to be,

With great Respect,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient Servant,

JOHN JAY, Presid^t.

Directed,

His Excellency, President Reed.

PRES. REED TO PRES. OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, August 24th, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honor of sending you by Mr^s Searle, sundry papers received from Colonel Broadhead, and enclosed in his letter herewith.

I also beg leave to inform Congress, that two of the Companies of Rangers raised last spring, under their orders, are gone with Colonel Broadhead on an expedition against Some Indian Town up the Allegany. The one consists of forty five men, the other fifty three good woodsmen, and eager to revenge the barbarities they have sustained from the savages. One other Company is at Bedford, where thirteen persons were lately murdered. Captain Kemplin, of Northumberland, never was recruited to more than fifteen or twenty, most of whom were killed or captured in the late invasion of that Country by M^cDonald. The fate of the fifth I have not been able to obtain, but have reason to think it is now in Northumberland. We have been able to provide them with most of the necessaries but blankets. We have most pressing solicitations on this point; and as their disposition & spirit seems likely to produce some general and

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 84.

beneficial service, I shall be very happy to be able to gratify in an article which is really indispensable to soldiers without tents.*

I have the honor to be,
with great respect, Sir,
Your most obedient
& humble servant.

Indorsed.

His Excell^y John Jay, Esq., Pt. of Congress.

GEN. ARTHUR ST. CLAIR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

West Point, August 24th, 1779.

Sir,

I have now the Pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your Favours of the 8th and 17th instant, which came duly to hand, and to congratulate you again upon another Piece of Success that has attended our Arms under Major Lee. The affair, considered abstractedly, is of very little Moment; but it shews that a Spirit of Enterprise exists amongst us—makes the Enemy, in some Measure, ridiculous, and serves to support the Soldiers under the incessant Fatigue they are employed in at this Post.

Enclosed you will find the recruiting Accounts stated by a Board of field Officers, with as much exactness as they were able; but they are far from being compleat—The Officers were absent, or detached with the Infantry, the amount of whose accounts are not carried out. I think the furnishing officers who may be employed on the recruiting service, with Powers to draw Money from the County Lieutenants, a bad Method. It would render the Settlement of the Accounts much easier if Money on that account was issued to the Colonel or Officer Commanding the Regiment only, the recruiting Officers to settle with him, and he for the whole with the State;—if they were either negligent or unsuccessful, he would naturally recall them and send others; and nothing would be allowed in their Accounts but what he was sure would be allowed him in the General Account.

The Officers, Sir, cannot have too high a sense of your Exertions in their favour; and it gives them a very sincere Pleasure that you find the Gentlemen in Public Business so readily concur with you, and that the Spirit of animosity is not so great as it once appeared to be. Time must wear off the Sharp Edges, and I fondly flatter myself to see all Parties so mellowed down, as with cordial unanimity to pursue the public Interest, which has, without doubt, in some instances, been left out of sight. Parties may, indeed I believe must, exist in every free State; but when the public Good is the

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 83.

principle Aim of both, they will not produce private Enmity. In Conversation with Col. Moylan yesterday, his Regiment came upon the Carpet. A Resolve of Congress seems to have had in view that the Regiments of Horse that have been raised in particular States should be considered as part of their Quota in the Continental Army. He would be very happy to find himself in that situation; and tho' the officers have not all been taken from Pennsylvania, the Men were, I believe, all raised there. I will be obliged to you if you will please to communicate your Sentiments on that head.

I have very frequent applications for orders to the Commissaries in different Parts of Pennsylvania to issue Provisions to the Wives and Families of Soldiers who have left them behind, and are, as they say, starving—it is really a very hard Case; but I do not consider myself as authorized to give any such orders—something, however, should be done for them, and I am told that all the Women of Col. Proctor's Regiment draw Provisions in Philad^a.

The Officers are in want enough of the Shirts; they will, however, be easy for a while, and if it can be done, they shall be kept so untill all that is intended for them can be provided; as it would certainly be much more desirable to have the whole together.

I received last week, two letters from Col. Nichols, enclosing the attestations of Six Recruits; but two of them only are come on, The others having deserted on their way to Camp—this is really paying very dear for Soldiers, and some other way should be fallen upon than sending them on with small Parties of two or three Men, who cannot pay the attention that is necessary to prevent it; perhaps it would be well enough to allow them to do duty in the Invalids untill a sufficient Number is collected, and then an Officer, with a proper Party, might be sent from Camp to bring them on. Mr Gibbons arrived a Day or two ago, and is now on Tryal before a General Court Martial.

There is likewise a Report of a Board of officers on Captain Henderson's Claim* enclosed, which was sent me last Night from Head Quarters, to be transmitted to the State agreeable to the late Resolve of Congress respecting Vacancies, which I beg you will please to lay before the Council.

I have the Honour to be,
with much Esteem and Respect,
Sir, Your very humble Servant,

A^r S^t CLAIR.

Lew^t McCullogh's Account is not stated in the Book, but it has come to hand since, and is in the Book where his Account stands.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 86.

JOHN HUBLEY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Lancaster, August 24th, 1779.

Sir,

Inclosed I forward to you a Letter to your Excellency, one to the Honble William Carmichael and one to Mr. Wm. Lawrence; the two latter I must beg you will be so good to have delivered to those Gentlemen. They came under cover to me from my Brother, Col. Hubley, now at Tioga Branch, where our Army under Genl Sullivan arrived on the 11th Inst. He informs me that since their arrival They have made an attack on Shenung, an Indian Town, (about 12 Miles from our army, on the same Branch) which our People burnt, and destroyed their Corn, Beans, &c., the Savages having previously made their escape. Genl. Hand being ordered to move up the Path leading to New Town, another Indian Village, to reconnoiter, in which movement the van Guard was fired on from a steep mountain, which our People returned, mounted the summit of the Mountain & beat off the Enemy. Our loss, which wholly fell on Col. Hubley's Regt., are 2 Capts. & one adjutant wounded, one Sergeant, one Drummer & five privates killed, and seven wounded. The loss of the Enemy is unknown.

I have the Honour to be

Your Excellency's

Very hbble Servant,

JOHN HUBLEY.*

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

PRES. REED TO WM. HENRY, 1779.

Sir,

We find ourselves under a Necessity of troubling you to negotiate a Piece of Business which you will find expressed at large in the inclosed Minute of Council. We have no Instructions to give as to Price, but that if there are Regulations in the County, we would have you conform to them. If not we will give £20 ³/₄ c^t for good merchantable Flour. You will please to correspond with Mr. Turnbull, our Agent hereupon, & call on him for Money with which he will supply you. Our Intention is in the first Place to purchase suitable Cloathing for our Officers, of which they are in great Want, & of

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 84.

which they are very deserving. And then apply the Residue to the Purchase of a Quantity of Salt to be distributed among the Counties, with a due Regard to the Persons & Counties who furnish Flour or Wheat for the Expence.

You will greatly oblige Council by your Exertions on this Occasion, & what will be a more powerful Inducement to you, it will be a great Addition to the many Services you have already rendered the State.

I am, Sir,

With much Esteem,

Your obed. Hbble Servt.*

Council Chamber, Aug. 25, 1779.

To William Henry, Esq., Lancaster.

PRES. REED TO CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL, 1779.

Council Chamber,

Aug. 25, 1779.

Sir,

The Council knowing your Zeal for the publick Good & Interests of the State request you to assist Mr. Henry with your Services & Influence in procuring us a Quantity of Flour for the Purposes of Exportation. It being our Design to apply the Proceeds for the Use of our Officers, & procuring Salt for the Use of the People of the Country,—Which we will distribute in Proportion as we are supplied with Wheat or Flour. It will therefore be the Interest as well as Duty of the Inhabitants to enable us to proceed in this important Business with Dispatch & Effect. We beg leave to refer you to Mr. Henry for farther Particulars, & am, Sir,

Your most obed. & very Hbble Serv^t,

JOS. REED.*

Christopher Marshall, Esq., Lancaster.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 84.

MONS. HOLKER TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

August y^e 26th, 1779.

Sir,

It is not long since you offered, in the most obliging manner, the Interposition of Government in favor of his most Christian Majesty's service, with respect to the means of procuring flour For the use of his fleet & armies in the West Indies. Fully persuaded of the efficacy of your exertions on such an Occasion; desirous of giving you an indubitable proof of my confidence therein and of my desire to conform to your views; desirous also of paying attention to the general sentiments of the people of this State whenever it Lays in my power, I shall beg leave to have recourse to your Excellency on the following important occasion.

Large demands of flour are made by his majesty's commanders and governors of his Colonies for supplies, which the late conquests will greatly increase, till such time that proper measures can be adopted to supply their various wants. I Find that the commissaries cannot readily answer all the calls made on them, both from the army & myself, & therefore I cannot with prudence augment my former Requests, or Rely on such if I should make them.

In this situation I hope your Excellency will permit me to Request that the Supreme executive Council will please to give the necessary orders so as two thousand Barrels of good merchantable flour, Fit for exportation, may be purchas'd as soon as possible for the use of the king's navy. I shall order the same to be shipped by the First safe opportunities, as fast as delivered to my agents, & shall consign them to the Governor & Intendant of Martinico. Should this application be favorably received by Council I hope your Excellency will inform me thereof, as likewise of the time in which the above mentioned quantity can be expected in this city. I should not be so very pressing on this subject if the Demands were not of the most urging nature.

I have the honor of subscribing myself with due Respect,

Your Excellency's most

Obedient humble Servant,

HOLKER.*

Should ready money be wanted I shall immediately order it to be paid to those Persons who may be appointed for this purpose.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 85.

GEN. WASHINGTON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

(Circular.)

West point,

Augt., 26th, 1779.

Sir,

In a letter which I had the honor of addressing your Excellency on the 22^d of May, I took the liberty of mentioning the inconveniences which had prevailed for want of system in the clothing department, and the necessity there was for an early appointment of State or sub-clothiers, agreeable to the ordinances established by Congress, by their act of the 28^d of March with which I presumed your Excellency had been made acquainted. I am now under the necessity of troubling you with a further address upon the subject of clothing itself.—From the best information I have been able to obtain both from returns and particular inquiries, I fear there is but too much reason to apprehend, that unless the respective States interpose with their exertions, our supplies of this essential article will be very deficient, and that the troops may again experience on this account a part of those distresses which were so severely and injuriously felt in past stages of the war, and which a regard to the interest of the States as well as to the duties of humanity should prevent if it be practicable. I do not know exactly how matters will turn out with woollen clothing, I should hope tolerably well, but if the attention of the State should ever go to this, there will be little probability of our having an over supply. But the articles to which I would take the liberty to solicit your Excellency's more particular attention, are blankets, shirts, shoes and hats, more especially the two first as our prospect of these is by no means pleasing, and such indeed as decides that the supply from the continental clothiers and agents will fall far short, or at least stand upon too critical and precarious a footing. The importance and advantages of good supplies of clothing are evident, and they have been most remarkably and happily demonstrated in the health of the troops, since they have been pretty comfortable provided for in this instance, a circumstance of all others the most interesting.

While I am on the subject of clothing—I would also beg leave to add that the condition of the officers in this respect, appears to me to require the attention of the states. It is really in many instances painfully distressing. The want of necessaries, and of the means of procuring them at their present exorbitant prices, have compelled a great many officers of good reputation and merit, to resign their

commissions, and if they are not relieved, it must be the case with many others, as they will have no alternative.

I have the honor to be
with the greatest respect
and Esteem your Excellency's
most ob^t serv^t

G. WASHINGTON.*

Directed,

To His Excellency Governor Reed.

GEN. WASHINGTON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

(Circular.)

Head Quarters, West Point,
Aug^t 28th, 1779.

Sir,

I take the liberty and indeed I am compelled by necessity to transmit to your Excellency the copy of a letter I received yesterday from Col. Wadsworth the Commissary Gen'l, which places our supplies of flour in a very serious and alarming point of view. The subject is so very important and interesting, that I am perfectly convinced it will engage your Excellency's immediate attention—and that nothing in your power will be omitted that can contribute to our instant relief, and to promote our future supplies of this essential article. I will not detail the consequences of a failure of flour at this time, they will but too sensibly strike your Excellency, but I think they may be fatal. Besides the common demands of the army it is highly probable we shall be obliged in the course of a few days to call in aid from the militia which will increase our expenditures as Admiral Arbuthnot and his fleet have arrived at New York according to advices with a considerable reinforcement. It is likely the deficiency may arise in a great measure from the exhausted state of the old crop and the new's not being yet threshed or carried to the mills. Your Excellency's attention will go to these points—and as I have

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 92.

already observed I am satisfied you will adopt and practice every expedient that shall seem to promise relief.

I have the honor to be
with the greatest respect
& esteem your Excellency's
Most Obedt servant

G^o WASHINGTON.

Directed,

On public Service.

To His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

JEREMIAH WADSWORTH TO GEN. WASHINGTON, 1779.

West Point,
August 27th, 1779.

Sir,

I have delayed for some days to express my fears to your Excellency that there would be a want of flour for the army, expecting Mr. Flints return from Philadelphia and hoping he would bring more favourable accounts than I have hitherto had—but he not returning every information I have been able to obtain confirms me in a belief that we shall be out of flour in three weeks.

I have obtained from the State of New York all the State magazine of flour the whole of their last years crop of wheat is exhausted the new is not threshed and I have no hopes of obtaining any supplies soon in this State. I am unacquainted with the state of the Magazines in Philadelphia, and in Maryland, the flour is not under my direction, the supply for three weeks is on this side the delaware and with the greatest economy will not last longer than that time.

I am

y^r Exo^ys Ser

JERE'H WADSWORTH.

(Copy.)

Directed,

To His Exo'y Gen^l Washington.

JAMES LOUGHREAD TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Phila., 28 Aug., 1779.

May it Please the Council,

Money is now wanted to Defray the Demands of Two Companys of Artillery Just Return'd from Billings-Port & Fort Mifflin— Council will Please to Grant an order on the Treasurer for Four Thousand Pounds,* That I may be enabled to settle with them.

I am with Due Respect

The Councils Obed^t Hum^t Ser^t,

JAMES LOUGHREAD.

Directed,

To The Honourable, The President and Council For the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 29^a Aug, 1779.

Sir,

Herewith enclosed your Excellency will receive an Extract of a Letter from The Board of war, & a copy of an act of Congress of the 27th Inst. respecting Rations furnished by Commissaries of the United States to the distressed Inhabitants on the Frontiers of Pennsylvania.

I have the honor to be Sir

with great Respect

your Excellency's

most obedient Servant.

JOHN JAY, Presd.

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 86.

WM. ATLEE TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Lancaster, August the 31st, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I am honoured with your Letter of the 27th inst. mentioning the Council's having authorised M^r Henry of this place to purchase Wheat and Flour on account of the State, for exportation, with a view to procure Salt and necessarys for the Troops and Country and shall with great cheerfulness afford M^r Henry my best assistance in that business—I have spoken to some of my Country acquaintance who will not only give M^r Henry the offer of what they may have to spare: but will, they promise me, use their influence in their neighbourhoods that others may do the same—as he is not yet returned from Philad^a I cou'd not inform them of the price allowed to be given.

M^r Atlee joins me in most respectful Compliments to M^r Reed & Family.

I am Dear Sir

with the greatest respect & esteem

your most obedient humb^l Serv^t,

WILL. ATLEE.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire President of the State of Pennsylvania.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

August 31st, 1779.

Sir,

A Sailor belonging to the Reasonable informs me that he was put on board the Vaughan galley to go up the North river, & arriv'd at Stony-point while the Barracks set on fire by the Americans were burning. A Galley is stationed at Pigge-kill to protect a bridge over a morass. The garrison at Stony-point said to be 1700, & at Verplank, 700; but informant doubts their being so strong; he says he heard the Cap^t of the Galley tell the Lieut^t that 27 men from the former & 7 from the latter had deserted in one night. The Galley at Pigge-kill is releived every week. Before the Reasonable sailed with Sir George Collier, the press'd men were put on board; she had about 700 men, one hundred of which were Americans

pressed or inticed into the service, but never permitted to go out of the vessel. Informant saw Capt. Cunningham, when carried on board to go to England, with heavy Irons on his legs.

I am, with Respect,

Your Excellencies

Most Obedient Serv^t.

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Indorsed,

To his Exce^y Joseph Reed, President of the State.

MR. HOLKER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, y^e 1st Sept^r, 1779.

Sir,

It is with pleasure I have the satisfaction of informing your Excellency that Mr. Penet's salt is at your Disposal on the following footing, which is very near the proposition I had the honor of mentioning to you yesterday,—400 Barrels of good, sound, merchantable Flour are demanded for one thousand bushels of the salt, which he declares to be from Portugal, white & good in quality, under Condition that you Consent to the exportation of said flour, I giving my Cover to the whole transaction.

Mr. Penet has observed that his sailors, who had Brought some few Bushels for their private adventure, sold them at 20, 22, and 24 pound per Bushell, in order to purchase some clothing for themselves, to People who expressed the greatest want of Salt, and would have readily given a Barrel of super fine flour for two bushels thereof.

Should this offer meet with your approbation, I shall be happy in having been instrumental in the means of removing all difficulties & apprehensions, & doing what may be satisfactory in this moment of Distress.

I Remain with Respect,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient & verry

humble Servant,

HOLKER.*

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, Presid^t.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 90.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, September 2, 1779.

Sir,

The Board have been frequently applied to relative to the defect in the number of guards for this post, which has been attended with many inconveniences. Some of the laboratory men have been withdrawn from that duty to perform the service of guards. Some posts have been sometimes left without sentries, and the invalids (the only guards) have been obliged to go on duty every other day, which tho' to men in full health not too severe, yet to them it was extremely hard. But from the difficulties attending draughts from the militia, we forbore making application for their aid. At length, however, the measure appears to us indispensable, chiefly on account of the great number of prisoners collected at this place, over whom, tho' amounting to eight or nine hundred, only a Serjeant's guard can be mounted. And tho' the new Goal is so strong & admirably constructed, yet where such numbers are confined, a captain's guard appears small enough to prevent & defeat attempts to set them free. We therefore beg leave to request that one hundred of the militia may be ordered out as soon as possible to do duty at this post. So long as such a body of prisoners remains here, such a reinforcement to the guards we deem absolutely necessary, and should a part of them be removed to Lancaster, or to Fort Frederick in Maryland, the militia will be wanted to escort them.

We beg leave to add, That Major Wirtz has repeatedly represented the necessity of continuing the militia guard at Lancaster. We authorized him to raise a company of elderly men for one year, to have a suit of cloaths & Continental pay, but he could not get a man on these terms, and better we could not offer. The powder and fixed ammunition at Lancaster are very considerable, and form so material a part of our whole stock that it would be too hazardous to trust them an hour without a guard, especially while any British Officers are stationed there, as they of course have their servants (who are soldiers) with them. A guard of militia will also be necessary if any of the prisoners confined here are (as we conceive they must be) removed thither. In this case we should order the officers to be removed to York Town, or some other place. An officer, three Serjeants, three corporals and forty five privates appear to be necessary at Lancaster, unless the guard there, like the invalids here, could be put on duty every other day, in which case one third of the non-commissioned officers & privates might be struck off. We request that a guard of militia may be ordered out accordingly. And are, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient servants.

By order of y^e Board,

TIM. PICKERING.*

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 90.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

In Council,

Pa., Sept. 3d, 1779.

Sir,

I duly received yours of the 2d Instant, Which I have laid before the Council. As it is our most earnest wish to co-operate with you in every measure tending to promote the publick welfare, it is with infinite regret I am obliged to acquaint you that the situation and Circumstances of the State make a compliance with your requisition of Militia extremely difficult. We are desirous to confer with you thereon, and request that you would at such conference inform us what aid the neighbouring States give for purposes of this nature, for as the burthen is very heavy, it would be a great satisfaction to the people to know that it was equally proportionate when circumstances and situation will by any means admit. We would particularly wish to know what Maryland and Virginia have done or now do.

I am, Gentlemen,

with much regard and respect,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

JOSEPH REED,

President.*

To Honble Board-of War.

PRES. REED TO MESSRS. HAGNER, &c., 1779.

Gentlemen,

The Holders of Salt in this City having voluntarily offered to put that Article into the Hands of Government to be applied to relieve the Necessities of the State in that Article—I am to request you to take the same under your Care in order that the above Purpose may be complied with. Mr. Fitsimmons in behalf of the owners of the Brig Active, & Mr. John Mease have sent me the Keys of their Stores—If there are any other Persons possessed of Salt in this City I would request you to obtain an Account thereof that it may be taken in like Possession & ascertained what Quantity there is in Hand & an Estimate made of the Proportion in which it is to be distributed.—Some Gentlemen have express'd to me Difficulties in giving the Keys of their Stores on Account of special Inconvenien-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 90.

cies—in these Cases I must wholly refer it to you to take or leave the Keys as you think proper. I am

Gentlemen with due Regard,
your Obed. Hbble Serv.,
JOS. REED.

Market Street, Sept. 3^d, 1779.

Directed,

To Messrs. Hagner, Will, Wharton, McGee, Miles, Houston, Semple, Pickering, Coates, Wood, Atkins, Brown, Kemley.

PRES. REED TO MR. HOLKER, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favours of the 1st Inst.* claim my acknowledgment & I am particularly to thank you for interesting yourself in Mr. Penets Salt. I have laid it before the Council, who think it too hard a Bargain. We hope a few Days may produce some Event to enable that Gentleman & ourselves to form more precise Ideas on the Subject.

If as I fear Capt. Montgomery has evaded my Request to him about Ind on Acc^t of his Christian Name I think he has failed in Duty & Respect to us both, & have accordingly wrote him enjoining in the strongest Terms an immediate Compliance with your Request which is reasonable in all its Parts.

I also gave the necessary Directions this morning in the Case of Capt. Busson—I have sent a General Order to the Magistrates on Application from you to give all Assistance to French Captains whose Sailors are seduced. I shall also give a general Order to Capt. Boys to pay a due Regard to any Requisition made by you in favour of any Captains or Officers who have Occasion to search any Vessels for their deserted Seamen.—Capt. Boys commands the Gallies at the Forts & will I am sure pay all due Respect to your Requests. In Case any Captains of Vessels should refuse a Compliance which from the turbulent Nature of some of them may be feared, I would wish the French Officers to avoid any Altercation but have the Matter reported to me, when I shall take effectual Care they do not pass the Forts.

I am Sir, with much Respect,
your Obed. Hbble Serv.

JOS. REED.

Council Chamber, Sept. 3, 1779.

* See page 675.

JOHN CARSON TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Carlisle, Sept^r 4th, 1779.

I received your favour of the 21st Ult,* by Mr. Thompson. The articles he procured for the rangers are likewise Arrived at this place, Viz^t. Knapsacks, hunting shirts shott pouches, powder horns, & Tomahawks.

I know not the number of each as I have not yet received them from the quarter Master. I had furnish'd the Troops with the greatest part of the forementioned articles before Mr. Thompson left this place to go to Philadelphia; (The Tomahawks Excepted) however they may or part of them be wanted, if they should I shall distribute them to the Troops agreeable to your directions. I shall use all the industry I can to provide Blankets for the men, but despair of meeting with success, as I fear they are not to be had here.

I am with respect

your Excellencys & Councils

Friend & Ob^t Servant,

JNO. CARSON.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President supreme Executive Council, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Favoured by }
Mr. Duncan. }

COL. BARTREM GALBRAITH TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Donegal, 4th September, 1779.

May it please your Excellency,

I have agreeable to your orders of the 3rd Ultimo called out the Seventh class of the Militia of this County, & before the receipt of the 18th had called on the eighth class, altho by neglect of the marching Officers making their returns, have not as yet been capable to Ascertain the number marched out of the eighth, but from the best information can't find that there has more than Sixty marched out of boath, which does not near Amount to the number last demanded; (which I understood 100 men to be our quota) I mean to Set out tomorrow or next day to call on Mr Cox the Commissary for my perticular Information on that head, before I call upon the first class. It is now just the time of the Farmer Sowing

* See page 659.

† Page 612.

his cropp, & the People forward in defence of their Country, have suffered so much. In the year 1777 who were absent at that season, say, it is better for them to sell double the property that would pay the sum of one hundred Pounds, than to march and be under the necessity of purchasing grain at these extravagant times for the maintenance of their families. The Young & Single men of those neighbourhoods are chiefly gon up in the Beautoe Service & otherwise that in fact, the Farmer is left to do his own labour. I have excited the Sub. Lieut^r all in my Power to the collection of Fines on delinq^t & mean to have it collected by Execution, Imprisonment or otherwise, as nothing but rigor will bring the People into a due compliance with the Militia law. As there are a number of Sub. Lieut^r appointed to my Assistance, of consequence ought to have something to do, have divided the County & have given each their district to collect, in some of these lenity to one & another, occasion a Confusion amongst the People & by no means comes up to the intent of the law—therefore the circle of the law (if I dare say it) in that respect is too large. I rec^d a letter from Col^o Hunter dated the 28th Ult. in which he informs, of no damage being don since that of F^r Freeland & that a number of the Farmers thereabouts, & on this side of munsey hill, are gon back again to their Farms; thirty four of our Seventh class had arrived at Sunbury, that he was a goeing up to Steation them in that neighbourhood Viz. of Fort Freeland, but no Acc^t of any militia from Cumb^a County.

I am with due respect your Excell^y

most obed^t Huble Serv^t,

BARTREM GALBRAITH,

L^t Lancaster County.

Directed,

His Excell^y Joseph Reed Esq^r, Presid^t of the State of Pennsylvania.

Fav^d,

James Anderson Esq^r.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, Sept. 4, 1779.

Sir,

We shall always be happy to wait on Council when they request it. In the present Case we can give no very exact Information as to what the other States are doing in the Way you desire to be informed of. We know in general that much has been done & that all the States have now a greater or less Number of Militia employed both in their own Defence & in Continental Service. We beg to be excused from making any Comparisons between the Exertions of the States. We believe all have done as much as they could. It is at least our Duty & Inclination to presume it. The State of Massachusetts had two Regiments of Militia constantly guarding the Convention Prisoners while they were at Boston & they now have a Guard of Militia at the Barracks at Rutland, & over the Prison Ships at Boston. There are considerable Numbers of Militia in Service in Rhode Island under Gen^l Gates. What there are in Connecticut & New York we know not; but believe in the former State particularly there are considerable Numbers in Service. Jersey have a Number in Service for their own Defence. When we had a large Number of Prisoners at Fort Frederick in Maryland we had a sufficient Number of Militia in addition to ab^t 50 of Rawlins's Reg^t to guard them & a small Guard has ever since been kept up at that Post. We have now called upon the Government of that State for one hundred Militia as we propose sending 400 Prisoners thither. The Prisoners at Charlottesville are guarded by Militia & a small Number of Men Part of a Regiment ordered by Congress to be raised for a Year in Virginia to be Stationed at the Convention Barracks but their Numbers are so small that the Deficiency is obliged to be Supplied by Militia. Of the Exertions of your State we need not inform. We believe she has been exceeded by none & it is now with Reluctance we find ourselves obliged to call upon her. But we cannot possibly avoid the Request.

We have the Honor to be

with Sincere Respect & Esteem

Your very obed. Servants,

RICHARD PETERS.*

Directed,

On public Service, His Excellency President Reed.
(War Office)

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 98, 95.

LEWIS NICOLA TO SECY. MATLACK, 1779.

Sept^r 6th, 1779.S^r,

There being six months pay as Town Major due to me from 19th of February to 19th of Aug^t last I beg you will apply to his Excellency the President & Hon^l Council for an order on the treasurer for three hundred Dollars, the amount of said pay at fifty Dollars per month.

I am Sir,

Your most obed. Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Directed,

To Col. Matlack, or Acting Secretary to the Hon^{ble} Executive Council.

MR. HOLKER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, September y^e 7, 1779.

Sir,

I am honored with your letter of yesterday, by which I find that your Excellency and Council are satisfied with my interference with respect to Mr. Penet's salt. I wish that you could have approved of the Bargain preferred by me in his Behalf. I conceive him at present at liberty to dispose of it to the best advantage, without I should have something farther from your Excellency on this subject.

I am perfectly satisfied with Respect to the orders given Captain Montgomery, & have the pleasure of expressing my acknowledgment for this recent Proof of the protection granted to his Majesty's Subjects in this State.

Your general directions with Respect to french deserted Sailors will give Satisfaction also; will facilitate & expedite the Research of our Captains, & put a stop to my repeated applications to your Excellency & Council, which were necessary till some mode of obtaining Legal Sanction & Support was adopted. I shall earnestly recommend to our officers to avoid all altercations, disputes & violence, not only on account of the Respect due to The Flag of these States, but likewise in order to maintain the most perfect harmony between the Subjects of the two nations.

I shall endeavour in so doing to merit your approbation and confidence which I shall always be happy to obtain.

I Remain with due Respect,
your Excellency's most obedient
& very humble Servant,

HOLKER.

P. S. I should be peculiarly happy to receive your Excellency's answer with Respect to my application for 2000 Barrels of flour which I want for immediate exportation; when I can Receive any decisive answer with Regard to the above I shall Request leave to demand as many more, the wants of his Majesty's fleet Being very extensive & urgent.*

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State.

PRES. REED TO MR. HOLKER, 1779.

Sir,

I duly received your Favour of yesterday. If Mr. Penet has no other Proposal to make we are obliged to him for his Attention, & he should dispose of his Salt without any farther Regard to what has passed.

In Consequence of your Application for 2000 Barrells of Flour we have sent Directions into the Country, the Result of which it is at present impossible to learn. We know the Season (it being the Heighth of Seed Time) will make the Supply more tardy than it otherwise would be. But we hope that as this Difficulty will soon be removed, our Exertions with the other Measures, which we are assured are passing, will have a happy Tendency to satisfy all the Demands. We should have been enabled to have given a much more decisive & satisfactory Answer if the inclosed Letters, which we received last Week, did not oblige us to express ourselves cautiously. The purchasing Commiss^r being absent we are not able to judge what Quantity he must have. We are perfectly at a Loss to comprehend this Matter, as a Letter is now before us dated the 31st July from a Committee of Congress, representing that another Committee for superintending the Commiss^r Department had signified that there was a great Surplus of Provisions in the Magazines

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 94.

which would spoil before consumed, & praying Leave to Export it, which was granted, including 1000 Barrells of Flour.

As soon as the present Embarrassments are removed & we are able to form our own Judgment, I shall do myself the Honour of writing you explicitly & fully. In the mean Time

I remain with

with much Respect Sir,

Your most obed.

& very Hbble serv^t,

JOS. REED.*

P. S. You will please to send me the enclosed Paper after Perusal.

Council Chamber, Sept. 7, 1779.

PRES. REED TO GENL. WASHINGTON, 1779.

Philad., Sept. 7, 1779.

Sir,

Your Excell^y several Favours of the 26th† & 30th Aug^y & 2^d September have been duly received & properly attended to. And I shall now acquaint you with the Result upon each.—It was some Surprise to us to find by an Application from the new Clothier Gen^l a few days before your Excell^y came to Hand, that the State was depended on for any Supplies‡ to the common Soldier; we knew the Officers looked up to us & accordingly made such Provision for them as I am sure will answer their utmost Wishes; we could probably have done the same for the Soldiers if we had known it was expected. The last Resolve of Congress to us was on the 28th May, 1778, in which all farther Purchases by the State on Acc^t of the United States were expressly prohibited, & as that Resolve was never vacated or altered we did not even apprehend ourselves at Liberty to purchase—tho we intended by way of Gratuity to send the poor Fellows each a good warm Waistcoat & perhaps something more. Indeed it is owing to a Neglect of our Officer who was directed to sell all the coarse Cloth, that we have any left as it is; we have on Hand about as much as will make every Soldier a warm Waistcoat & a pair of Overalls, on which the Taylors are at Work. Your Excell^y must see how difficult it is at such short Notice to answer Expectations, & you & the Army will certainly make Allowances

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 94.

† See p. 670—the others not found.

‡ See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 96.

if under such Circumstances we find great Difficulties & of Course the Supplies tardy; this is often improved to the Prejudice of the Government, but very unjustly, & as the Attention to the Officers in Articles which we are depended upon for shows very plainly that neither Attention or Generosity is wanting.—We shall be indefatigable to remedy the Mischief & hope not without success. We are sorry to find any Pennsylv^a Officers on the List of Violaters of Parole, & shall concur in every Measure to answer your just Expectations on this Subject. For this End I have sent to the Lieut. of every County a List with most positive Injunctions for their Return—unless where Death or Sickness has prevented, in which Case authentick Proofs to be sent.—We are informed that several in the List have returned & as soon as we are able to give more full & satisfactory Accounts of the others shall do so.

The partial Exchanges made by States is a fund of lasting Complaint, & strongly urged by many Officers of this State in Excuse for their Conduct, & the Commissaries of Prisoners allow there is Reason. Many of our Officers taken on Long Island in 1776 are yet Prisoners, tho there are none from the Eastern States remaining taken at that Time, & many taken since Exchanged while ours are left. If it was possible to put this Business entirely on a general Footing it would have a happy Tendency, & is well worthy your Excell^y Interposition.

The Scarcity of Flour & Demand on us was very unexpected, & I am sure will be so to your Excell^y after you have perused the enclosed Letter to which I may add Mr. G. Morris's Assurances to Council that there was such an Abundancy of Flour as to make it absolutely necessary to export. The Council hesitated to comply, but at length pressed thereto gave the Permissⁿ, & a Vessel with 1000 Barrels sailed last Week. As M^r Morris was the Superintend^t Committee himself, the other Members declaring they knew nothing of the Measures, all the Consequences will be justly ascribed to this Mode of doing Business. At this Season of the Year your Excell^y will be sensible how difficult it is for the Farmer to thresh or come to Market, besides which the Practice of our Speculators, countenanced by some principal Merchants, who have thwarted every Measure for obchecking the Depreciation, have now given such Disgust to the Country that we are threatened with a total Suppression of all Supplies.—If it had not been for the Prizes our Situation at this Time would have been truly alarming. The Bread we now eat is of musty English Flour, which formerly would have been given to our Cattle.—Apprehending a Difficulty in the Article of Salt & procuring Cloathing for our Officers about 6 Weeks ago, Directions were given to purchase about 2000 Barrells of Flour for Exportation on Acc^t of the State—a Part of that is now in Store, but if it was possible to avoid turning it from the useful Purpose to which it is devoted it would be best, and as the Farmers to the Southward have been under a Necessity of threshing on Acc^t of the Fly, we flatter

ourselves the Supply from thence will be more speedy & sufficient.— If the Laws of Maryland would have permitted Exportation to this State we could have made very large Purchases in that Quarter & at a pretty moderate Price, but the Depreciation there now surpasses all Credit. Tobacco is not to be obtained in many Parts of Virginia or Maryland but for Gold or Silver, & of course a Barter is introduced that will, if not checked, soon give the Money its fatal Stroke.

We shall give Gen. Sullivan the Assistance you request whenever the Commiss^{rs} acquaint us with their particular necessities, tho the Freedom he has taken with us in his Complaints to Congress & to the People on the Frontiers have made an Impression upon us which will not soon be removed. We have never had one Line from him since he left Easton, & could easily satisfy your Excell^y that his Complaints were without the least real Ground. In Consequence of the Demand for Boatmen the Rangers could not be raised. & now it is evident that his Expedition will fail of its full Effect by its Numbers & the Difficulty of feeding them. However we are very glad it has been attended with any Success. It would be happy if your Excell^y Example in your Attention to publick Authority, & candid Allowances, which we shall always acknowledge, had a more diffusive Influence. And we now beg Leave to assure you that no Exertions on our Part shall be wanting to yield a full Compliance with every of your Requests.

We are with the

greatest Respect & Esteem,
Your Excell^y, &c.*

MR. HOLKER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, y^e 8th Sept^r, 1779.

Sir,

I have this instant received the honor of your Letter of the Seventh Current.† I return the inclosed Papers which you have been pleased to favor me with, after having perused them. I needed only your Excellency's Information, to be fully convinced of the Critical Situation of things, & of the necessity of Supplying the immediate demands of the army. It is Just they should be first supplied, & I cannot but see with pleasure, the exertions of government in their favor, even in preference to my demands. I shall therefore rest quiet, in the full Conviction that the honorable y^e Council will Concert, and adopt some effectual measure to insure & to facilitate the means of procuring the necessary articles of pro-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 99.

† See page 678.

visions, without which no stand can be made on this Continent against the Common Enemy, nor those supplies furnished to his Majesty's fleets on which we had reason to depend from a Country, whence 200,000 Barrells were yearly exported heretofore ; if effectual measures cannot be speedily taken, I shall be under the Cruel necessity of depending only on the supplies which can be procured from Maryland, where wheat is more or less fly bitten, & where the harvest, as I am told, is not near so abundant this year, as in the state of pensilvania ; your Excellency will please to observe, that my orders are not to stand for the price, because Provisions must be had at any rate, to support fleets & armies ; & that ready to pay whatever may be necessary, or to act by my own agents, if it is Judged proper I should interfere ; which, however, I shall never do but with the utmost reluctance, Lest some men might imagine that, by giving generous prices for what must be procured, it should have a tendency to depreciate the Continental Currency. Permit me to suggest to your Excellency, that according to my Ideas of matters, a free and uncontroled course of trade might, perhaps, put things to rights. The price of exported articles may rise somewhat by a free exportation, but an abundance of provisions will be the immediate consequence thereof, & would necessarily reduce their price after a short period of time. It is very possible that I may be mistaken, & that the usual Course of things may not take place where paper is the medium of trade ; this your Excellency can determine better than I can pretend to, & I will therefore conclude by renewing my former Requests, which I could wish it was in your power to gratify, as the wants encrease daily, & become more & more urgent. I hope your Excellency will please to take in good part what I have the honor of suggesting, in doing which I have no other view but that of convincing you of my entire Confidence, & of the obligation I am under of procuring supplies by every means in my power.

The reference in your letter with respect to the two Committees of Congress, does not regard me in the Least. I am exporting what I have on hand, but must Replace the same Instantly, in conformity to my instructions.

I have the honor of subscribing myself,

with great respect,

your Excellency's most

obedient, humble Servant,

HOLKER.

THOS. HALE TO PRES. REED, 1779.

May it please your Excellency & the Honour. board,

The Bearer hereof, John Winters, lives in Chester County, East Nottingham Township, near the Maryland line. He says there is Great Quantities of Wheat Carried out of this State into Maryland, as the Millers of that State Offers and gives 20 Dollars per Bushel, to the great prejudice of the Credite of our Currency, and to the well affected People of this State, who would be willing, in a general way, to sell at 16 Dollars, the regulated Price, was it not for the above, which, in my humble opinion, ought to be redressed if possible.

I am, Gentlemen,

your most Obedient

& Humble Servant,

TH^o HALE.

To his Excellency the president & Supreme Executive Council.
Sep^r 8, 1779.

JACOB SHOEMAKER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Northampton County, Sept^r 8th, 1779.

Sir,

The confused state the Militia affairs at present in this County is in, on account of some mistaken notions diffused amongst them, lays me under the necessity of Representing the matter to your Excellency and the Honble. Board, Expecting advice how to Proceed further in the Premises. In Consequence of an order from Council to John Wetzel, Esq^r, Lieu^t of this County, dated July 21, 1778, the said Lieu^t ordered me to Call out the four first classes in the 5th Battalion of Militia in this County, which I accordingly did, and held a Regular appeal the 30th day of July, 1778, when there appeared but 19 men ready to go in their tour; after the appeal was over, some of the Officers & men fell on the Notion of Enlisting a party of men, & jointly to pay them a Bounty. I represented to them the Illegallity of such a proceeding; Nevertheless they engaged 18 men and sent them Out, which they allowed to be the full quota for 4 Companies out of the said 4 first classes. I acquainted Col^o Wetzel with the proceedings of these men, who inclin'd to think it the best way not to Collect the fines of the delinquents forthwith, but Expected at another call the delinquents would yet turn out, in Lieu of the tour they was then to have done.

So affairs lay until the savages made Incursions on our frontiers

in July last; then, Col^l Wetzel himselfe Called upon the officers to turn out their delinquents that had Neglected their turn the preceeding year, and also ordered the Officers to make Return to him or any of the sub Lien^{ts}, of the Number of men that would so march. The Captains made Return, partly all of the same tenor of the Copy of one here inclosed. (No. 1) Upon the whole, not a man turn'd out of the 5th Battalion. Col^l Wetzel then Ordered me to have the fines Immediately Collected.—I made out the Executions and directed them to the sheriff of the County to serve, who hath refused to do it, as you will see in a copy of his refusal in Writing here inclosed (No. 2). I attempted to get some of the Constables to serve the Executions, who reply'd, if the sheriff was in fear of Executing them, how could I Expect they would do it. And to find out another fit person was, and is yet, very difficult for me to do, as I could not Engage any man of substance and Character to undertake it; and, as the Number of Delinquents is considerable, no less than about 114, which, in the whole, amounts to a large sum, I Look upon it as a great riak for me to Intrust it into the hands of any loose and unsettled man; and so the fines remain all uncollected, except the delinquents of one Company, who have voluntarily paid. Under these Circumstances, I flatter myselfe Councill will be pleased to direct me how to proceed, as to them shall appear Equitable and Right.

I am, Sir, your Excellency's
most obed^t & Hum^l Ser^t,
JACOB SHOEMAKER,
Sub-Lieutenant.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.
In favour of Col^l J. Stroud.

SEBY. MATLACK TO COL. LEWIS FARMER, 1779.

Philadelphia, Sept. 9, 1779.

Sir,

The Council understanding that there is a very large quantity of goods in the state store, His Excellency, the President, has ordered me to request you to procure one or two proper persons in whom a confidence may be placed, to lodge in the said store, with arms in their possession. You will contract for such reasonable allowance for this service as will compensate for it, and the Council will order it to be paid.

I am, with due respect,
Your very humble servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

To Col. Lewis Farmer, State Clothier.

MONS. DU PORTAIL TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

West point, 10th September, 1779.

Sir,

Congress some time since ordered the formation of three Companies of sappers and miners, of which they were pleased to honour me with the Command. The soldiers for these Companies were originally to be drafted from the line, but his excellency, general washington, finding some inconveniency in doing it at this time prefers their being raised. In Consequence he has written to Congress praying them to recommend it to the different states, to permit this levy, which Recommendation your excellency will probably receive. I therefore send Captain M^cMurray into your state to recruit for these Companies & I intreat that you will be pleased to give the business all the aid of which it may stand in need.

Cap. M^cMurray has the regulations made by Congress for these Companies. I dare pray you to have the goodness to run them over and you will see what is to be their service and their instruction; you will see that the officers are to have the means of acquiring all the knowledge necessary to engineers, and that the soldiers will learn to Construct all the works relative to fortifications. May I therefore be permitted to observe that it would be very advantageous to the state of pensilvania to furnish a number of these soldiers who, returning into their own Country after being instructed, may be of the greatest utility to it. As I flatter myself your excellency will judge of it in the same manner, and your eagerness to form every kind of establishment useful to the state which you govern is well known, I take the liberty to propose to you the formation of one of these Companies of sappers and miners, to belong to the state itself. This plan has been mentioned to general washington and met his approbation in that case. As there are two vacancies in the Company of Mr. M^cMurray they Could be granted to two gentlemen of the state of pensilvania for this purpose; if your excellency should be acquainted with any gentlemen disposed to embrace this profession and proper for it, I should esteem it a favor you would send them to me for examination. The qualities necessary for the officers of sappers and miners are in the first place a good education in general, which will be a security for the integrity of their sentiments. It must be Considered that these officers becoming Engineers and so in a situation to have in their hands the plans of the frontiers of the fortifications, the memorials concerning them, in a word all that has relation to the defence of the state, they ought to be qualified to inspire great Confidence in their fidelity and in their attachment to their Country; in the next place it is proper they should have some mathematical Knowledge—the more they have the better; but we

may not exact a great deal from young men who do not exceed the age of twenty, who besides have had a good education, possess a fund of intelligence and show an inclination to instruct themselves, they may be the easier dispensed with, as there will be a master of mathematics attached to the Companies, and they will be furnished with regard to this object with all the means to supply the defects of their education.

I beg your Excellency to honor me with an answer.

I have the honor to be,

With the greatest respect,

Your excellency's the most

obedient and very humble servant,

le CH^e DUPORTAIL.

His excellency, general Reed.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War-Office, Sep^r 10, 1779.

Sir,

We duly received the acts of Council of the 2d & 5th inst.* making promotions & filling vacancies in the pennsylvania line; for which commissions would have been made out as usual, but an objection arose on account of Captain Reily & lieutenant King, the former being superseded because *absent without leave*, and the latter *left out* of his regiment. The acts of Congress explicitly declare the right of each state to appoint officers & fill vacancies in their own battalions: but we are not apprized of any resolution directing that officers may be *dismissed* by the authority of any state: on the contrary, in the articles of war section 14th article 13th it is declared "that no commissioned officer shall be cashiered or dismissed from the service, excepting by an order from the Congress, or by the sentence of a general court martial."—These matters we imagined might have escaped the notice of Council; and esteeming it our duty to prevent any errors we discover from taking effect, we beg leave to ask the attention of Council to the cases of captain Reily & lieutenant King with their consequences, that they may take such further order thereon as shall to them seem proper. We shall take care to supply a guard for Lancaster from the troops in this city as you request, but this obliges us to ask for the number of twenty men in addition to the hundred militia we have already applied for.

When we had the honour of waiting on the council & consented

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 88. 92.

to furnish arms for the militia, our views were confined to those who should form the guard in this city: the state of the public stores will not at present warrant a more extensive supply. We expect a quantity of rampart muskets from Virginia in a few days; they are substantial arms without bayonets: out of these the 750 asked for may be lent to the state. The one ton of powder you request shall be delivered to your order.

A resolve of Congress relative to cloathing passed yesterday upon our report as we are informed, will remove all doubts in regard to purchases of cloathing made by the state, and enable them to prevent any competitions with the continental agent. We beg leave however to observe, that we do not think it necessary that our agent should be restricted from making any purchases; and our instructions to him will effectually prevent any detriment to the United States or this state in particular from a supposed competition with the Agent for the state. We shall recommend our agent a cooperation with the state agent we request Council to enjoin the same on the latter.

We are Sir,
very respectfully
your most obed.

By order of the Board
TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r.
(War-Office.)

PRES. REED TO PURCHASERS OF FLOUR, 1779.

Sir,

It was with great Concern I was informed you could not procure Flour for the State Use. Col. Morgan has been allowed to take Salt to Berks County to be sold to the Inhabitants at £15 ³/₄ Bushel, giving Preference to those who supply Flour and will receive two thirds of the Money at £20 ³/₄ s^t—one third in Salt at the above Price. Perhaps this may be an Inducement to the People with you to exert themselves on this Emergency as they shall have the same Terms. To the Price of Salt will be added the Cartage, and if it is regulated at a lower Price than £15 they will have the Benefit of

such Alteration. The Waggon which bring the Flour will take back the Salt.—I am Sir

Your very Hbble Serv.

JOS. REED, President.

Philad., Sept. 8th, 1779.

It is supposed £15 will be the current Price of Salt but if the state pay less the People will have the Benefit of it.

Chester County.

Directed,

To Col. Boyd.

PRES. REED TO COL. BAYARD, [SPEAKER], 1779.

Sir,

In consequence of some Uneasiness in this City about 2 Weeks ago with Respect to Salt, the Holders of that Article thought proper to make the Proposition contained in the enclosed Letter, in Consequence of which a considerable Quantity of Salt is now in the Hands of some Persons authorized by me to take care thereof untill some such Order may be taken therein as may give the most general Satisfaction to Town & Country. I was entirely unacquainted with the Rise & Progress of the Discontents on this Subject untill informed by the Gentlemen interested at which Time they had arisen to an alarming Height. The Measures taken to suppress them were in a great Degree effectual and as it is not proper or convenient to me to continue any farther Direction of it I must request you to communicate the Matter to your Hon. House either officially or otherwise that they may either in a private Way or by publick Order dispose of the Salt. I shall be at all Times ready to give any Gentlemen who may act in Consequence thereof such farther Information as may be necessary on the Occasion—And am with very

great Respect Sir,

Your most Obed.

& very Hb'ble Serv.

JOS. REED.

Philad., Sept. 13, 1779.

Indorsed,

The Hon. Col. Bayard.

THE JUDGE OF THE COURT OF ADMIRALTY TO PRES. REED,
1779.

The Judge of the Court of Admiralty begs leave to inform the President & Council that he has caused a seal to be engraved in Brass for the Use of the Court of admiralty for the State of Pennsylvania, an Impression from which he has the Honour to lay before them for their Inspection, hoping it will meet with their Approbation. He also encloses the Account of the Engraver, requesting that an Order may be drawn on the Treasurer for Payment thereof. The Block, engraving &c., comes to £4—in hard money.—

Sept. 13th, 1779.*

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire.

JOHN HAY TO COL. HARTLEY, 1779.

Sir,

York, Sept 18th, 1779.

As there are Eighteen or more Fellows in Goal, Several of them concerned with large gangs of Counterfitters of Money, I have thought it proper upon the application of the High Sheriff to Order a Subaltern Serj^t, Corporal and 20 Men of the 3^d Battalion to serve as a guard to the goal 'till further consideration, And must request the favour of you to mention this to the President in order to know how he approves of the measure and to inform me thereof by the bearer, Mr. Tusler, or other safe opportunity.

I am Sir,

your Humble Servt.,

JOHN HAY.

Directed,

To Col. Thomas Hartley, in Philadelphia.

By Mr. Tusler.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 162.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

(Circular.)

Philadelphia, 14th Sept., 1779.

Sir,

You will receive herewith enclosed Copies of three Acts of Congress,—One of the 21st Aug^t on the Subject of an Embargo—one of the 25th Aug^t against Restrictions on the Inland trade between the States, and the third of the 10th Inst., for providing cloathing for the troops. The two first should have been, as usual, sent to the States directly after they were passed, but it was the sense of Congress, 'till within a few days, to delay their transmission. Your Excellency will also receive herewith a copy of a circular letter from Congress to their Constituents.*

I have the Honor to be
with great Respect,
your Excellency's
most obedient Servant,
JOHN JAY,
President.

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

NAVY BOARD TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Navy Board, mid district,
Philadelphia, Septem^r 14th, 1779.

Sir,

The Frigate Confederacy is in want of Three hundred double headed Shott for twelve pounders, none of which are in the Continental Store. Would therefore take it as a favor if your Excellency will give an order for that number or such part of them as can be spared from the State.†

We are your Excellency's
most obedient Servants,
JOHN WHARTON,
WILL. WINDER, Jr.,
JAMES READ.

Directed,

His Excellency Governor Reed.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 108.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 108.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office,

Sept 14, 1779.

Sir,

We have been honoured with your Fav^r of the 11th inst., & have given Cap^t Stiles the order for one Ton of Powder & one hundred & twenty Arms.

It is impossible for us now to ascertain the exact Proportion of Cloathing the Pennsylvania Troops will receive out of the Continental Stock. Therefore if it were otherwise proper we could not deliver it to the State Clothier. The Plan we are upon, is to accumulate as much as possible & issue it all at once. The Manner of issuing is directed by the Ordinance of Congress on the Subject & added to this the Board have some Regulations yet to make. So that if the State will be pleased to procure as much as they possibly can of Hatts, Shirts, Shoes, Hose, Blanketts, woolen overalls and Socks (to serve instead of Stockings in a Deficiency of Hose) & inform the Board of the Quantities procured or likely to be obtained, they need not as yet fear having too much provided. Of Blankets their Troops will want a Number at least equal to half the Number of Men. We have not Blanketts enough to supply one 8th of the Army.

We have the Honour to be

with the greatest Respect

& Esteem your very obd^t Serv^t

RICHARD PETERS.

By Order.

Directed,

On publick service

To His Excellency President Reed.

THOMAS SMITH TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Sept 15, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Colonel Martin one of the Sublieutenants of Bedford County, on his leaving Town lately, sent a few Lines to me, informing me that when the Indians made the late incursions into that Country, he thought himself under an indispensable obligation to call out a few of the Militia and Station them in such places as to afford the utmost protection to the few Inhabitants yet remaining in that

almost desolated Country, that such a small number could do by ranging along the Frontiers & meeting each other at Stated Times & places and communicate their discoveries to each other. That he was happy to find that this mode gave great encouragement to the People, & he hoped they would be able to relieve them at the expiration of their Tour—but to his great mortification there was not a grain of Powder more than what was delivered to the present Scout which would be soon exhausted & if a Supply was not soon afforded those who were willing to turn out in defence of their helpless neighbours would not have it in their power—the Consequence would most certainly be an evacuation of the whole Country—and intreating me to apply to the Council for a small Quantity of that on which their preservation so much depends, not doubting but that Council would afford them every assistance in their Power as soon as they could get any Powder—which when he was in Town he believed they were scarce of.

Altho' I am convinced that Council have done every thing in their Power for our Protection this summer, yet it has been our misfortune not to have had a single Man either for our own defence or escorting Stores to Fort Pitt, except a few of our own tired out Militia, and a few Men of Cap^t Clugages Company, who don't seem to be extended wide enough & only afford protection to one Corner, altho Col. Martin & myself by differing in Political sentiments which but too often gives rise to a lasting Personal enmity, are not upon such friendly Terms as I would wish to be on with every Man, yet Justice to his Conduct requires me to declare that if it had not been for his patriotic exertions and indefatigable application, there had not by this Time been an Inhabitant in the whole County.

In Compliance therefore with his request, I intreat that Council would furnish the Lieutenant with a small Quantity of Powder as soon as possible—I will do every thing in my Power to have it sent up without delay.

Monday.

I am

gentlemen your very

Humble Serv^t

THOMAS SMITH.

P. S. I have almost lost the use of my Hand which I pray may be my Excuse for this scrawl.

Directed,

To His Excellency the President & Council.

Vol. VII.—30

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Three sailors who left the guard ship last saturday night say Sir George Collier and his fleet was then lying off the Hook & that they reported they had destroyed 40 sail of the American vessels at Penobscot.

Several of the transports which arrived with Admiral Arbuthnot had sailed for Halifax under Convoy of the Renown of 50 guns & two frigates but on the arrival of a Polacre who brought an account of a french or Spanish fleet being seen off Georgia a few days before an express was dispatched to recall them, but only one of them had returned when the informant came off. A fleet of 22 sail arrived from Cork last tuesday was a week & reported that a Rebellion was on foot in Scotland, & that it was certain that a french fleet with a large number of troops on board, was off the northward of Ireland preparing to land. The day before the informants came off there were brought in two 20 gun ships from Penobscot, being the only two that had not been destroyed by the Americans. Since the taking of the 10 Jamaica men by the Boston fleet, a report prevailed that they had taken an English Man of war size unknown & about 20 sail of Merchant men bound for and within two days sail of New York. A parcel of English Prisoners of war arrived from Boston in a schooner, having made their escape from a Prison ship there. A fleet of one 74 and 2 frigates were preparing to go against New london, with troops on board, but upon the arrival of a Packet with an account of the spaniards declaring war, the expedition was stopped.

Permit me to Assure you

that I am with respect

Your Excellencies

Very Humble & Obedt Servt

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

September 15th, 1779.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

MR. HOLKER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, y^e 16th September, 1779.

Sir,

In Consequence of your Request I have given an order for the Delivery of Mr. Penrose's servant, but the Captain Refuses Complying therewith, because he will have Mr. Penrose pay the charges of the Prison. This Gentleman intimates that it is your Excellency's opinion that his wages are due to him, or his master. This is a point I cannot concede, Because this man, who declared himself a free subject in France, was enlisted under Condition of making his return to France. But as the Captain does not want to keep this man, & Consents, under my authority, that he should be Restored to his former master, I will readily agree that his wages be paid, providing another sailor be furnished in his lieu, the wages of that Person being paid by Mr. Penrose for his Return to France. This, I think, is Reciprocal Justice, & therefore will, I hope, meet with your Excellency's approbation.

I am Respectfully, Sir,

Your most obedient

& humble servant,

HOLKER.

Directed,

To his Excellency, Joseph Reed, President of the state.

C. J. MCKEAN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Last night I was favored with two acts of Council, the one dated the 14th instant, the other yesterday. As to the first I shall without delay call upon the Deputy Commissary of prisoners, and also the Keeper of the new Goal, for a return of the names of all the prisoners therein, and also for their opinion respecting such of them as as are supposed to have been inhabitants of this State, and to owe allegiance to it, and shall report to Council my opinion on their several cases.

In answer to the second, respecting the Sheriff of Northumberland county,* who is charged with the escape of three felons thro' negligence, and the Question proposed by Council thereon, to wit,

Whether by the 22d section of the Constitution the Council have a power of suspending an officer from office until the Assembly pro-

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 108, 112.

ceed by way of impeachment, or what other is the construction of the words, "shall be liable to be impeached by the General Assembly, either when in office or after his resignation or removal for mal-administration?"

The Sheriff in Pennsylvania, being an officer elected by the freeholders & freemen of each county and commissioned by the President in Council by Letters patent, is an officer for the war, if he behaves himself well, and of course cannot be* * * *

By the power vested in the Justices of the Supream court by the express words of the Act of Assembly, intituled, "An Act for establishing courts of Judicature in this province," in the 18th section "they can examine, correct & punish, the contempts, omissions and neglects, favours, corruptions & defaults of all or any of the Justices of the peace, Sheriffs, Coroners, Clerks and other officers, within the respective counties," and by the common law, if any Sheriff or any other officer, whose office concerns the administration of Justice or the Commonwealth, will not give his attendance in court, ex officio, he forfeits his office, and upon a record made of the non-attendance by the court, the President and Council can remove him.

The true construction of the words cited from the 22d section of the Constitution, appears to me to be, that the General Assembly may impeach any officer for mal-administration only, before the Council, whether he is in office or has resigned, or been removed from it for some legal cause of forfeiture, which latter case must happen, I conceive, after a conviction, and that the impeachment in such a case can only be for the purpose of punishment criminally, by fine or otherwise.

With, submission, I would advise, that Council should direct the Attorney General to commence a prosecution, by indictment, in Northumberland county against the Sheriff for the escapes, or by information in the Supream court, in order to discourage such conduct in others; and that, as the new Election is at hand, if he should be again elected, the Council should commissionate the person on the return with him.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President & Commander in chief of Pennsylvania.,

* Autograph & a portion of the letter cut off.

PRES. REED TO MR. HOLKER, 1779.

Sir,

I received your Favour of this Morning respecting Mr. Penrose's Servant. The Laws of the State being the proper Tribunal which must decide the Right to the Servant's Wages; any Difference of Sentiment between us is immaterial. What the Man declared himself to be, or any Engagem^t he entered into in France will certainly not be binding on his Master because the Servant was guilty of Falsehood in asserting his Freedom & had no legal Power to make such an Engagement.

I am so unhappy as also to differ in Opinion with you in the reciprocal Justice of Mr. Penrose's finding a substitute for this sailor. I do not see under what kind of Obligation he can be to find the Captain another Sailor; it appears to me to be equivalent to keeping the Servant; if a Man should be so unlucky as to purchase a Stolen Horse he might as well insist that the right Owner should find him another before he would restore the Horse stolen to the true Proprietor.

But, as you observe, the Captain refuses complying with your Orders for the Delivery of the Servant, it will be a Relief to you as well as myself to acquaint you that Mr. Penrose has been directed to conform to the Laws of the State, & pursue his Measures accordingly.

I am, Sir, with due Respect,
Your obed. Hbble Servt.,

J. R.*

Indorsed,
Sept. 16, 1779.

COL. L. NICOLA TO COUNCIL, 1779.

Sept. 17th, 1779.

Sir,

I am favoured with yours of this days date & beg leave through you to inform his Excell^y, the Hon^{le} Board, that the usual way of transferring an officer to the Invalid Corps is by a warrant or order to me to receive him, from the Board of War or General Washington. No officer having been promoted, on coming into the reg^t I could not give a direct answer, then applied to the Board of war, whose answer is that the Invalid Corps being looked as an easy retreat for life, it was an established rule no promotion was to take place therein.

I am, Sir,
Your most obed. Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA.

Directed,

To Mr. James Trimble, Under Secretary to the Hol^{le} Executive Council at the Secretaries office.

* See page 699.

RICHD. DELAPT &C., TO , 1779.

Bedford, Sept. 17th, 1779.

Sir,

This Day arrived here Capt. Samuel Paxton, with twenty-one Men, who had been out at Frankstown on a Tour of Militia Duty, by order of Colonel James Martin; the Capt. reports that during his stay at that Place, which was about sixteen Days, He, with some of his Men, ranged the Woods at least ten Miles around the Fort. And last Week he discovered at the Head of Frankstown Waters in the Allegany Mountain, a Rendezvous Place the Indians have had for some time past; there was erected ten Bark Houses in their Way, each of which would do for three to sleep under, it appeared that three of the said Shades or Houses had been occupied about three or four Days before. We mention this as one circumstance of our Fears; We understand that Colonel Broadhead has destroyed the Indian Towns in the Forks of Allegany, and we think it a great thing; but at the same Time we lie exposed here, and from the nature of Indians they look for revenge, and of course we must be the first Victims of their Rage, as we lie nearest and most convenient to them. We are also without Powder to enable us to defend ourselves, even if we had Men, and such a Backwardness appears in some of our officers, that we dread the Consequence. We hope your Excellency and the Honourable Council will take the Premises into consideration, and send such relief as you may think most proper for the safety of this part of the Commonwealth.

We are, with due respect,

Your Excellency's Humble Servts,

RICHARD DELAPT,
THOMAS ANDERSON,
his
MICHAEL ✕ FEATHER,
mark
HENRY WERTZ,
JACOB SAYLER,
JOHN GRAHAM,
JACOB THERSH,
THOMAS HAY,
WILLIAM EULES.

MR. HOLKER TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, y^e 18th Sep^r, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honor of reminding your Excellency of the necessity of collecting the supplies which I have taken the liberty of claiming from the exertions of Government, & which you have been so Kind as to proffer in order to give me that assistance & aid which was become necessary for procuring provisions for his Majesty's fleet; In my last I observed that the demands were very urgent; I have now some reason to imagine that they may possibly be immediate. I therefore request that what can be collected forthwith be delivered to the Persons whom I may appoint to receive the same, to be disposed of in consequence of future directions which may be forwarded me. Your Excellency well knows that all my Dependence in the present circumstances is upon Government, & I am persuaded nothing will be omitted on your part to give compleat satisfaction; if nothing can be obtained I earnestly intreat you to inform me thereof with all possible Speed, so as I may take those precautions which may be deem'd necessary.*

I Remain with due Respect,

Your Excellency's most

obedient & humble Servant,

HOLKER.

*Directed,*His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, Pres^t of the State.

C. J., THOMAS MCKEAN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Upon the best information I can obtain as yet I find among the prisoners in the new goal the following Traitors, viz. :

1. John Papley.—He left the city of Philad^a, in Dec^r last, was taken by the Confederacy in a L^o of Marque Schooner called the Patsey, bound from St. Christophers for New-York.—His commission as Captain ag^t The United States is at the Board of Navy.—His wife & family reside in Second-street opposite to Mr. David Beveridge.

2. Wm. Ryan.—A horse-jockey by Profession, 'till lately he

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 109.

joined the British Army, viz., in Septem^r, 1777; he marched with them to New-York in June, 1778. He was taken as a Captain of marines on board of the privateer sloop Jenny of New-York.

3. Joseph Moffat.—He joined the British army when in Philad^a, marched with them to New-York, and was taken on board a schooner, prize to the Privateer Bayard of New York.

4. John Connel.—Formerly a schoolmaster near Concord in Chester County, from whence he came and joined the British Army when in Philad^a—marched with them to New-York, and was taken on board the Privateer Intrepid.

5. Joseph Paxton.—He is a freeholder in Bucks county, joined the British Army when in this city, and was taken prisoner in the Fort at Stony Point.

6. Jacob Gatcheus.—Captain of the Enemy's Privateer Impertinent. He was an Inhabitant of Philad^a, and went with the Enemy to New-York in June, 1778.

7. Samuel Saunders.—Pilot in the above Privateer, & joined the Enemy with Gatcheus.

8. Jas. Thompson,	} —They respectively joined the British Army when in Philad ^a , went with them to New-York, and were taken as privates on board the Enemy's Privateer Impertinent.
9. Charles McClain,	
10. John McDonald.	

11. Zachariah Hutchins—of Philad^a—went about 2 years ago to Virginia, perhaps longer, & was taken on board the Impertinent as a Prize-Master.

12. James Dawson,	} Deserters from the State-Gallies of Pennsylvania,—joined the British Army or Navy at Philad ^a in 1777 and 1778, and were taken in different vessels belonging to the Enemy.
13. Edward Holland,	
14. John Shannon,	
15. Charles McBride,	
16. John Nardin,	
17. Thomas Guthrey,	
18. Robert Dodd,	
19. William Hughes,	
20. John Ems.—	Has been tried about a fortnight ago by a court martial, &c.

If I can by any means gain intelligence of any other Traitors among the Prisoners it shall be communicated to the Council, and

shall wait their directions with respect to the above. The courts of Oyer & Terminer, &c., begin here this day.

I am Sir,

with the utmost regard

Your Excellency's & the Council's

most obedient humble servant,

THO. M'KEAN.*

Philadelphia, Septem^r 20^a, 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President, &c., of Pennsylvania.

COUNCIL TO HENRY FISHER, 1779.

Philadelphia, Sept^r 21, 1779.

Sir,

Mrs. Hitchcock has represented to the Council that she has been under a necessity of giving you and the people at Lewis notice of the approach of ships in the offing, which has been attended with considerable trouble to her, altho' very necessary on account of the superior opportunity she has of discovering them at sea—and she requests to be allowed pay for a boy for this purpose. The Council direct me to request you will make a representation to them how this matter is circumstanced, in order to enable them to judge what is proper to be done in the case.

She also represents that the foundation of the Light House is endangered by the wash, which the Council also request you will examine and write to them what appears necessary to be done to preserve it from further damage.

I am with great respect

Your very humble servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

Directed,

To Mr. Henry Fisher at Lewes Town.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 110.

CAPT. JAS. MONTGOMERY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

New Castel, Sep^r 21st, 1779.

Sir,

I have the Pleasure of Informing your Excellency that after Weathering a Verrey hard Gale of Wind that lasted four days and Drove us to the Southward of the Capes of Virginey, thank God we have Suffered Very little. On Saturday, at 4 A. M., Saw a Sail Cloas a board of us. Got our Ship Clear as soon as Possabell, and give her Chace at 8 P. M., Came a long Side of her. She Prooved to bee the Brig^t Bayeard, Privateer of New York, of ten Guns and forty-five men; they had thrown their Guns over board in the Gale; we have Brought them in hear to Reefit. She is the fastest Sailing Vessell I have seen this Summer, and Should your Excellency want a Small Vessell for the State I think you can Get Non better. She is Compleat in Stoars of all Kind, and Wants Nothing but some Repairs, as Shes Suffered Verrey much in the Gale. I Came into the Capes yesterday, but it Blowing Verrey hard at E. N. E. Would Not Venture in the Road, and having so maney Prisners on board did Not Care to try a Nother Gale at Sea; Stood up the Bay and anchored at this Place at 9 P. M. This will be delivered to your Excellency by Lt. Carson, who will In form you mere fulley of the weather the Ship made in the Gale. The weather Not admitting us to go in to the Road a Greasabell to your Excellency's orders to me before I left Philadelphia, Shall Expect your orders hear, which Shall bee Punctuley abayed by

your Excellency's

Much oblig^d Serv^t,

JAMES MONTGOMERY.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 120.

EPHRAIM BLAINE TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, Septem. 22nd, 1779.

Sir,

The daily consumption of Flour for the support of our Army is very great, and our Magazines quite exhausted. This will require the greatest exertion in the Commissaries of Purchase to procure that Article, otherwise the Army will undoubtedly suffer for want of Bread—The quantity demanded from my district is One hundred & fifty thousand Barrals, (Seventy thousand of which is the quota for this State). To execute this business under the present unhappy Spirit of Extortion and Monopoly which prevails generally with Mankind, will require the Aid of the Executive and Legislative Authority of the respective States—I beg your Excellency and Council would please to grant such assistance as your Wisdom may see prudent, to enable me to procure the quantity demanded.

Annexed your Excellency has the names of my assistants in this State. Should you approve of them please to signify it by line, and such as you disapprove of please to mention, and recommend those whom your Excellency know to be active men and capable to answer the public demands in the Execution of their Offices—

For the City & County of Philadelphia Chaloner & White, Bucks County Nicholas Patterson, Chester William Evans, The lower district of Lancaster Matthias Slough, the upper Cornelius Cox. Berks Peter Aston Jun^r. Northampton Rob^t Lettis Hooper (resignd) York Town Henry Miller. Cumberland & Bedford James Smith. Northumberland William Macalay.

They have all taken the Oaths of Office and Allegiance and have been active in the execution of their respective duties.

I have the honour to be

with much Esteem & Regard

Your Excellency's most Obedient &
most humble Servant

EPH. BLAINE, D. D. G.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire President of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII, p. 112.

MONS. GERARD TO PRES. REED, 1779.

A Monsieur le Président et au Conseil Suprême Exécutif de l'Etat de Pensylvanie.

Messieurs,

Les marques flatteuses d'estime et d'intérêt que vous voulés bien me donner, me pénètrent de la plus vive reconnaissance. Je m'estime heureux d'avoir mérité votre Suffrage et le témoignage que vous rendés au zèle avec lequel je me Suis apliqué à cimenter par tous les moyens qui étoient en mon pouvoir, votre confiance dans l'amitié du Roi mon Maître, ainsi que l'union et la bonne intelligence entre les deux Nations. C'est avec une Satisfaction infinie, Messieurs, que je Saisis cette occasion de rendre de mon côté hommage aux dispositions que vous avés montré dans le cours de ma mission pour contribuer au même but Salulaire par la manière dont vous avés exercé l'autorité qui vous est confiée.

Pénétré de ces Sentimens, Messieurs, et de la confiance qui vous est due à tant de titres, il ne me reste qu'à vous prier d'agréer mes remerciemens pour tous les procédés que j'ai éprouvé de votre part tant comme Ministre public que personnellement, ainsi que mes vœux pour votre bonheur et votre prospérité.

GERARD.

A Philadelphia, le 22. 7bre, 1779.

JEDIDIAH SNOWDEN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

To his Excellency, the President, And to The Honorable the Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen :

The part I have early taken in our Contest, both in point of Personal service and in lending my money to the States, have in its consequences totally put me out of all business ; and were I now to draw my money out of the funds, it would not possibly put me again into it, on account of the very great Depreciation of our currency. In this situation I am at present, with the additional calamity of paying a high rent, & subject to the high advanced demands of my Landlord, as his avarice, or the depreciation of the money may happen to point out. In this situation, I am obliged to hope & apply for the Friendship of your board, In giving me some place under you that would yield sustenance for my self & family, & prevent my spending the small remains of my Estate. And as the Office of Clerk of the Market is at present vacant, I would thankfully accept

an appointment to that Office if you should think me capable of the trust & worthy the place.

I am, Gentlemen,

most Respectfully,

your obedient, humble Servant,

JEDIDIAH SNOWDEN.

September 22, 1779.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Extract of a Letter from an Officer in the Western Army, commanded by Major General Sullivan; dated Konadasagea, 9th September, 1779.

Since the Action of the 29th of last Month, the Indians have fled at the Approach of our Army, & left their Settlements to our Mercy. Newtown, Konowarohala, French Katherines, Candai, Shaves, Gagh-seonghwa & Konadasagea, are great heaps of Ruin;—besides these, we have burnt a number of scattering Houses, & destroyed a large Country of Corn, Pumpkins, Cymbkins, Cucumbers, Water Mellons, Peaches & Apples.

This day we shall set out for Genessee, & lay that Country in ashes. The Enemy having retired to Niagara, we expect no Opposition as we Advance, but an Attack as we return.

Extract of a Letter from Easton, 22^d Sept^r, 1779.

"Last Evening an Officer of the western Army arrived here. He left the Army the 9th, & says they are healthy but in great Want of Salt, which will probably cause the Flux to rage among them in a short time, as they subsist mostly on fresh Meat, Corn & Pulse, of all which they find great Plenty. I hope there will be a sufficient Supply of Provision at Tioga for the Army when they return, which will be the last of this Month."

War Office, Sept 28, 1779.

Sir,

The foregoing is all the Intelligence we have received from Gen. Sullivan's Army since the 29th Aug^t. As you may probably wish to know their Situation, we do ourselves the Honour to inform you.

We have the Honor to be,
with much Esteem,

Your very obed. Serv^{ts},

RICHARD PETERS,
In Behalf of the Board.

Directed,

His Excellency, President Reed.

COL. BRODHEAD TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Pittsburgh, Sept 28th, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I have inclosed to the president of the board of War the Copy of a letter herewith sent to the Commander in Chief, giving an Account of my success against the Senecas & Munies. This you will be immediately acquainted with, and I am sure it will afford you Pleasure.

I have the pleasure to inform you, that the Delawares, Wyondots & Maquichees tribes of the Shawnese Nation, seem disposed for peace; their talks I have likewise inclosed to the Board of War, And if I was possest of a few Goods & some trinkets, I should doubtless engage them to go against the Enemy. Indeed, the Delawares seem ready to follow me wherever I go.

But my officers and Soldiers are exceeding ragged; the Soldiers naked, and I am unfortunately greatly distressed for want of Clothing & Money to relieve their necessities. Insomuch that unless more regard is paid to the Cry of the Troops, I must shortly request his Exalcy the commander in chief to appoint another person to take the Command, & give me leave to hand him my Commaission.

Upon all occasions, I request Col^l Stephen to write to Col^l Jehn Bayard; and I therefore beg he will pardon me, and be assured that it is not for want of a most sincere regard & esteem that I do not write to him.

I frequently hear of Gentlemen being promoted by Congress for extraordinary merit, and I heartily wish they may consider my worthy Lieu^t Hardin.

I hope a second supply of Stores is on the road for my Reg^t;
And give me leave to beg you once more to interest yourself in its
favor to procure some good Blankets, Shirts, Hats, Shoes & Stockings,
& Leggings, or woollen overalls for the men.

If our State or its legislative body have not yet allowed a greater
bounty for recruits, I fear most of my good Men whose terms are
expired, will enter into the Virginia Corps.

With every mark of the most perfect regard & Esteem, I have the
Honor to be, Dear Sir,

your most Obed^t &

most Hble. Serv^t,

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

His Excell^y Gov^r Read.

P. S.—I have been obliged to lend some Shoes & Blankets which
were drawn for my Reg^t, to Capt^r Morehead's & Irwin's men, who
went on the Expedition.

D. B.

PRES. REED TO COL. WM. HENRY, 1779.

Sir,

It is with great Concern that we find a continual Source of Expence
& that very heavy for the Repair of Arms delivered to the Militia—
Sometimes being out only a few Muster Days they return the Arms
in such a Condition as to take considerable sums to repair them—
You will therefore Sir, immediately signify to the Officers the Ne-
cessity of their paying a suitable Attention to this Matter, for which
Purpose you will direct the Captain to have the Guns carried to their
Houses after Exercise and they to be answerable for their Condition
Accidents excepted.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hble Serv^t.

Indorsed,

Sep. 23.

Directed,

To Colonel Henry,

PRESIDENT REED TO SPEAKER OF ASSEMBLY, 1779.

Sir,

When the Voice of my Country called me into publick Station I could not consistent with my Sense of Duty either refuse or bargain for my Services. I accepted the Post I now hold presuming upon the Justice & Liberality of the State that I should be enabled to support its Credit & Honour as its first Officer & that without farther lessening the very moderate Fruits of private Industry & Success. It is painful to a Man of delicate Feelings, and who certainly did not obtrude himself upon the Publick to ask this Kind of Attention but to whatever Self Denial or Sacrifices I may be willing to submit I should think my Silence criminal to a Number of Valuable & faithful Servants of the Publick whom the Depreciation of the Money has distressed & who must sink into Poverty & Ruin. In a few Weeks the good People of Pennsylvania will have an Opportunity of expressing their Sense of my Services & Conduct. If one more acceptable shall meet with their Favour I shall with Pleasure return to that Station from whence their Confidence raised me, but I will not abandon them on account of any private Considerations, depending on their Justice to Compensate the Disappointment arising from the Depreciation. I have endeavoured with decent Oeconomy to support the Rank in which I was placed, if this is to be a private Loss I shall submit without murmuring but it will be so expressive to me of the Sense of the People, that I shall hereafter regulate my Expences by my Income depending upon the Candour of the World to excuse Appearances & Attentions which Custom & the Opinion of Mankind have made almost indispensable in publick Characters.

It is not to be expected that every Gentleman in Office will view this subject in the same Point of Light, of course he will not consider my Resolution as forming any Line for him I am so sensible of the Worth & Services of those Gentlemen that I should hope one Line of Justice may be drawn for all, & should be unhappy in the Reflexion that as our Services & Duties are mingled our Interests should be separated.

I leave it Sir, to your Prudence & that of the Hon. House to consider this Letter as publick or private. Having no Views or designs which I could wish to conceal from the World its being inserted on the Minutes or submitted to the private Inspection of the Members only will be equally agreeable to Sir,

Your Obed. & very

Hble Serv^t,

J. REED, Presd.

PRES. REED TO MR. HOLKER, 1779.

Sir,

I send you herewith the Minutes of Council in Answer to your Application of the Inst.—Since which Col. Blain has informed me that there are 4000 Barrels of Flour at Baltimore on your Acc^t & your Agent there was receiving 2000 more, a Supply which it is hoped will answer present Necessities. The inclosed Extract from a Letter of that Gentleman presented yesterday to us will show that notwithstanding our earnest Wishes to render the fleet of his most Christian Majesty every Service, all our Exertions are required for the Support of the continental Army & added to those of the General communicated to you the other Day must agreeable to your own Opinion sufficiently justify postponing your Demand till their Necessities are satisfied. If by taking other Precautions you mean to purchase by your own Agents, I think it my Duty to inform you that such a Procedure either directly or indirectly will by no Means be agreeable to the Authority of this State for Reasons which we mentioned in our former Letters.*

I am Sir,

your obed. Hbble Serv.,

J. R., President.

*Indorsed,*1779, Sept^r 24th, To the Honble Mr. Holker.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

Philada., Sept. 25, 1779.

Gentlemen,

I received your Favour of the 24 Inst.,† but have not laid it yet before the Council, because it seems to have been wrote under a sudden Impulse, which probably occasioned a Mode of Expression that would not have been used on farther Consideration. But if the Board is of Opinion it will not tend to interrupt the confidential Intercourse we have preserved, I will communicate it to morrow. The Facts are mistaken upon which it is grounded, the Reasoning in my Judgment erroneous; the Consequences of course unconfusive.—We have no stationary Purchaser at Baltimore; we have

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 112.

† Not found.

had no Competition, nor raised any Prices, We made a casual Purchase at that Place at Rates far more moderate than they could have been had here. There are at this Time Purchasers in this City from three States besides your Agent all uncontroul'd by us. And you must remember that in your Letter of the 10th Inst. you expressly declined complying with our Request to lay your Agent under Restrictions. In that Letter you represent the Danger of Competition as supposed. I cannot see any Reason why it should be real in Maryland, & not in Pennsylvania.

The Intention of the Resolves of Congress we can only gather from their Expression, and as there is no Home made Cloathing to be purchased (as Congress must well know) I apprehend the Resolve must have a different Meaning than you conceive, or it can have none.—The present Plan of Cloathing seems adapted to transfer all the Odium of the Nakedness of the Troops upon the respective States as they are to be accountable for an undefined Deficiency while they are restricted in even providing against it by the most natural & obvious Means. Had you agreed to our Proposal to allow us the Preference of our own Market, the complaint of going elsewhere would have had a fair & just Weight. But to tell us that all other Purchasers may come to Pennsylvania, but Pennsylvania must be confined to her own State is on the face of it so unreasonable that you certainly have not considered it with your usual Accuracy & Attention.—We know very well the other States will proceed in their Purchases notwithstanding your Representations, because your Cloathing Department has never had sufficient Confidence or Credit to prevent the Necessity of their Exertions, & they will not do it the less for a specific & urgent Call which tho' a very late one will afford a Ground to blame them if there are any Wants. In my Judgment you have but one Choice either to take the whole Business upon yourselves & be responsible—or to give every State the Preference of its own Market, leaving it to regulate its relative Conduct to other States as it can & you taking the Surplus if any. These are only my private Sentiments. I hope they are not so expressed as to give any Umbrage.

Your Letter of the 10th suggests an Assumption of Power by the State with Respect to the Promotion of Officers on which you are also misinformed. We took the Return as sent from Camp, where we supposed the matter had been properly conducted. We cannot send the Paragraph to Camp on Acc^t of the Insinuation, but should be glad to have the Objection to Capt. Riley & Lieut. King's Cases stated on the true Ground.

I am, Gent.,

your most obed. Hbble Serv.,

JOS. REED.

GEN. HAND TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Camp at Kanawaluhaly, on Tioga, 21 Miles
from the Mouth of that River.25th Sept^r, 1779.

Sir,

I have the satisfaction to inform your Excellency that the Boddy of the Army under Major General Sullivans Command has arrived at this place on its return from the Indian Country, having completed the Desolation of all the principal Settlements within its reach.

The loss of their Crops and Houses must render the subsistence of the Savages very difficult in this part of the World, so much so, that I think they cant bring any considerable Parties into ours—yet as we have not been fortunate enough to Capture any of them, and as no terms have been sought by them, I am apprehensive that the spirit of revenge so natural to Savages, which their good allies the English will not fail to foment, a desire to persuade other nations that they are not Conquered, or even hungar may bring stragglng parties on our Frontiers this fall.

I take the liberty of mentioning these my suggestions to your Excellency that you may make timely provision for the security of the Frontiers, should you think them in any danger.

I have the Honour to be

Sir, with much respect,

your Excell^{ty} most obed^t

& most Humble Servant,

EDW. HAND.

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, Presid^t of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsilvania, at Philadelphia.

Fav^d by
Major Hoopa. }

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

(Circular.)

Philad^a, 26th Sept., 1779.

Sir,

You will receive herewith enclosed, a copy of an Act of Congress of this day, earnestly recommending it to the several States to exert themselves in furnishing the allied armaments in America with such Aids of Men & Provisions as may enable them to operate effectually against the common Enemy, & expel them from this Country.

The reasons for this recommendation are fully assigned in the Preamble to the Resolution; I forbear therefore to multiply arguments to induce a compliance with a requisition which every motive of Interest, Safety, Honor & Regard to the alliance call loudly upon every American to regard & fulfil.

I have the honor to be

with great Respect & Esteem,

your Excellency's

most obedient Servant,

JOHN JAY,
President.*Directed,*

His Excellency President Reed.

COL. MARSTELLER TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Lebanon, Sep^r 26th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Excellency's Letter of the 9th September came to my Hands on the 23^d brought by an Express from Reading, upon the Receipt of which I immediately set out for Waggon, and with great Difficulty got the promise of 8 to set out on Tuesday next. Your Excellency's Favour of the 23^d Int^r is now before me to which I make answer.

That I have sent to M^r Turnbull 160 Barrels of FlourThat I have sent to Reading 20 d^o to be forwardedAnd have now at Lebanon 80 d^o to go of
this week, and at sundrey Mills 878 Bushels of Wheat which is

making into Flour with all possible Dispatch, which will make about 170 Barrels or upwards, this I shall send by single Loads as fast as it can be finished. Seeding is now over and Teams will be more readily procured than usual. Part of the Flour I had made, to wit 92 Barrels I had to give to the Commissary, it being unfit for Exportation; this is a true state of my Purchases actually made and paid for.

As to the present Times it is difficult to procure Wheat, the old being mostly exhausted and the new not yet threshed, and if it were the Farmers are unwilling to part with the same for the limited Price unless they can purchase their Necessaries in Proportion thereto.—I presume nothing will induce the Farmers sooner to thrash & Sell their Wheat than the Opportunity of getting Salt; therefore hope your Excellency will be pleased to order me a reasonable Quantity of that Article, by this Weeks Teams to exchange for Wheat or Flour upon the Terms mentioned in your Favour of the 9th Inst.

You may rest assured, sir, that I have done my utmost Endeavours, but since the Publication of the Regulation (to which I am expressly limitted) I could not make any farther Purchases, I shall do all in my Power under these Circumstances, until I shall receive your further Instructions in the Premises. I have sent a Copy of your Excellency's Letter to Col. Morgan at Reading.

With the greatest Respect I remain

Your Excellency's most obedient

and very humble Serv^t

P. MARSTELLER.*

Directed,

On Public service.

To His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r. at Philadelphia.

By Express.

JAS. CRAIG &C., TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philad^a, 28th Sept^r, 1779.

Sir,

Yesterday we were informed by M^r. Turnbull that your Excellency had countermanded the Voyage of our Sloop which we had Freight^d him the 7th Instant to take Flour to Boston on Account of this State—Occasioned by an immediate supply being wanted for Count De Estaing.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII, p. 116.

As this occasions a considerable disappointment to us, as well as the great expence in fitting her out for the said Voyage. We shall esteem it a particular favor (as she has the Flour on board & ready for Sea) that if the French Consull has occasion for such a Vessel, Your Excellency wou'd assist us in procuring Freight from him for her.

We are

your Excellency's
most Hble Serv^{ts}

JAS. CRAIG, Junr.

PATTON DAVIS & Co.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r President.

[RESOLUTIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY, 1779.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania,

Tuesday, 28th September, 1779, A. M.

The Committee appointed to confer further with Council on the subject matter of last evening's conference, and digest and draw up a proper plan for executing the measures of the said conference, made a Report in writing, which being read and considered was unanimously agreed to as follows.

Whereas the President and the Supreme Executive Council have informed this House that Congress have represented to them that considerable Quantities of Flour and other provisions are immediately wanted for the supply of the fleet of our August Ally, which is hourly expected on this Coast to the aid and assistance of these United States.

And Whereas the salt now in the possession of the Publick, and that supposed to be in the hands of private persons within this State for sale may be usefully employed in procuring Flour for the supply of the said Fleet. And as the occasion will justify and render such application necessary.

Resolved 1st That the Supreme Executive Council be requested and authorized to purchase or collect such farther Quantities of Salt as may be in the City and Liberties beyond the occasion of a private Family; the payment thereof to be settled and adjusted in like manner as of the Salt already collected.

Resolved, 2^d That the said Executive Council be requested immediately to issue a Proclamation setting forth the exigency aforesaid, and calling upon the faithful Inhabitants of this State

immediately to send to the Agents appointed by the Council as much Flour as they can spare from the necessity of their own Families, they receiving therefor the current price for such Quantity thereof as the Salt herein after mentioned shall not be sufficient to satisfy; and shall have five Bushels of Salt for every ten Barrels containing not less than two hundred weight each of good merchantable Flour delivered as aforesaid at the price of £15 per Bushel.

Resolved 8th That there be allowed to the Proprietors of the Salt which now or hereafter may be appropriated to publick use a just and adequate price to be settled by the said Council.

Extract from the Minutes.

JOHN MORRIS, Jun^r, Clerk.*

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

To the Hon. the Board of War,
Gent.,

I have the Honour to inclose you two Resolutions of the Supreme Executive Council to which I beg your Attention. You will also please to direct your Secy to forward the Commissions requested some time ago where no objections were made. The Militia from the Islands except a small Guard left for the Care of the Works are ordered up to Town, their Tour of Duty being unfinished as soon as their Circumstances & Situation are known we hope to be able to answer your Request on that Head satisfactorily.

I am Gent^l

with much Respect

Your Obed. Hbb. Ser.,

J. R.

Endorsed,

Sept. 29, To Honble Board of War.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 117.

PRES. REED TO OFFICERS AT FORTS ON DELAWARE, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, Sept^r 29th, 1779.

Sir,

The Council understand with great Concern that the unhealthy Situation of the Forts on the River has very much affected the Men & it appearing under present Circumstances that there is no great Probability of an Attack from the Enemy, I give you my sincere Thanks & those of the Council for your good Service & hereby permit you to return to Town to finish your Tour of Duty by Reliefs or some more agreeable Service if it shall be necessary. But as it will not be proper to leave the Works wholly unguarded you will leave an Officer Serjeant & 15 Men in each Work viz. Mud Island & Billingsport giving over to each of them the Orders you have respectively received.—This can be determined by Agreement or Lot & it must be settled who shall relieve as those to whom it shall fall to stay should not continue above one Week and then an Officer & like Number to go to each & so on untill the Tour of Duty is expired.

You will convey these Thanks to the Officers & Privates & believe me,

Your Obed. Hbble Serv^t,

JOS. REED, President.

PRES. REED TO SPEAKER OF ASSEMBLY, 1779.

Sir,

Feeling a disposition amounting to Anxiety to execute the Resolves of your Hon. House for procuring the immediate Supplies of Flour* for the Use of the Fleet of his most Christian Majesty it is with great Regret we express our Apprehensions that we shall be involved in inextricable Difficulties & perhaps experience a fatal Disappointment if the Prices of the respective Articles are not decisively settled. One Price that is of the Salt on Delivery being settled it appears to us absolutely necessary for the same Authority to fix that of the Flour & also the Price at which the Possession of Salt should be paid. In a Measure which affects the Interests of your Constituents & operates in the Nature of a Tax we cannot deem ourselves by any Means qualified in Point of Knowledge or Propriety to fix Prices when the Fluctuation of Money is so great & the Measure of such a

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 116.

Nature as to require the utmost Wisdom & Weight to give Efficacy to.

We shall prepare the Proclamation immediately so as to be ready for the Press as soon as we shall be favoured with your farther Determination.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

JOS. REED.

PRES. REED TO JOHN WILCOCKS, 1779.

Philada., Sept. 30th, 1779.

Sir,

Reports, however unjust, erroneous or scandalous which respected myself personally, & had no publick Consequences I have despised too much to trace or notice ; But when they affect Interests more important I cannot despise them. I have before me two Affidavits of yours saying that I had refused Continental Money & assigning my Example as a Reason for your doing so. I propose to make this Business very serious, but before I take any farther Measures thought proper to give you this Notice. My Situation & Duty to the Laws of the State will forbid any Construction of the above that I mean in the course of the Business to violate them ; but I hope at least to give some Check to the abuse of publick Character, pursuing with firmness & Prudence such Steps as will most effectually prevent such Liberties in future.

I am, Sir,

Your Hbble Servt.*

Indorsed,

Sept. 30, to Mr. John Wilcocks.

COL. ADAM HUBLEY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Fort Sullivan, at Tioga, October 1st, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Army under the Command of Genl. Sullivan arrived here last evening, after accomplishing the immediate objects of the expedition.

The following is a small sketch of our proceedings since my last of the 30th August, (the day after Newtown action.)

* See pages 725, 727.

On the 31st The Commander in chief, considering his small supplies of Provision for the Army, and the extensive business before him, was reduc'd to the absolute necessity of exposing his wants to the Army, and making to them proposals by which means he might possibly be enabled to execute the designs of the expedition.

He informed the Army that he used every effort to procure ample supplies for them but thro' the inattention of those employed to furnish the necessaries, he feared that without the greatest prudence he would not be able to compleat the great business expected from us.

He proposed the Army should content themselves with half allowance of Provisions, Viz., Flour and beef of each half a pound; this proposal he requested should be laid before the Troops, and they to give their opinions with freedom thereupon. No time was lost in having this matter settled, and the sentiments of the Troops were called for, who, to their everlasting honour be it spoken, without one dissenting voice, cheerfully agreed to the request.

This important point being happily settled, the army took up their line of March, and proceeded on their route to Katherine's town; after encountering a number of difficulties, occasioned by the badness of the road & want of a sufficient number of Pack horses, we arrived late on the night of the first Ulto., the savages having, no doubt, previous notice of our approach, had retreated, leaving a number of their effects and an old Squaw. After destroying the Town & Corn, and putting every thing in readiness for a March, we proceeded on our route to, and arrived safe at *Candai*,—this place, after sharing the fate of *Katherine* town, we left to proceed for *Kanadaia*ga, previous to our march, a whiteman, who had been made a prisoner last summer, made his escape and came to us, he informed us that the savages, with the Tories, under Brand & Butler, with a reinforcement (joined since the action of the 29th, the whole about 1200,) had just left this place, and were determined to give us battle at *Kanadaia*ga; from every Circumstance, both as to intelligence and the favourable situation of the place, we had every reason to believe they would make a stand. On the 7th we arrived near the place, the greatest precaution was taken in advancing, on our way to Town we had the out-let of Seneca Lake to cross, and immediately after to enter an extensive & difficult defile, which extended within one mile of Town, here we expected to meet with some obstinate opposition, but we were suffered to pass thro' unmolested. A disposition for attacking the Town was then made, the situation of it being such as to leave little room to doubt an opposition, we accordingly advanced, but contrary to our expectations it was evacuated, seemingly a very short time before our arrival, as their fires were left burning and a number of effects, with a small male white Child were found. It was near dusk when we entered the Town, where we Encamped, without any Molestation, for this night. Here we Continued untill the 9th; various opinions prevailed among the officers

respecting our proceeding any further, on Account of the small Quantity of Provisions which we had then on hand, but the General with a considerable majority, resolved to encounter every difficulty to execute the important expedition, and determined to proceed on with the scanty pittance, and accomplish the arduous task.

We then proceeded on our route, passing thro' several villages, and on the 13th arrived at *Kanaghias*, from this place, Lieut. Boyd with a party of 26 men, chiefly from the rifle corps, was ordered, under cover of the night, to reconnoitre Gaghsguilaheery, a village about 5 miles this side *Jenise*, a place at which we expected to meet with some opposition, on his arrival he found it evacuated, excepting by a few straglers, one of whom they kill'd & scalp'd; the Army not coming so soon as Lieut. Boyd expected, he dispatched several messengers, the first of whom brought us intelligence of the situation of that place, but the last, Discovering several Indians as he was coming on, return'd to Lieut. Boyd and gave him information of it, who instantly pursued them, the savages pushing towards their main body, (of which L^t Boyd was totally ignorant) he found himself totally surrounded, he had no other alternative but either to fight or surrender, the former he chose, and after a skirmish of two hours, having 14 men kill'd, he & one private was taken, the remainder got off.

It appeared from the situation of the savages, being the whole of Butler's & Brand's force, they intended to lay in ambush for our Army, the Country on which they had pitched being exceedingly well calculated for that purpose, but the arrival of Lieut. Boyd diverted them from their main object, by which means our main body escap'd a Capital stroke, (which would have been absolutely unavoidable) which fell upon poor Boyd and his party.

The main Army, for want of intelligence, was ignorant of what was passing in front, untill about 12 o'Clock, when the General received the first information, upon which the Light & rifle Corps immediately pushed forward, on our route we had a most difficult morass to pass over, which we got with the greatest difficulty, passing over one by one. We ascended the Mountain on which the Enemy lay but they left it with the greatest precipitation, leaving behind them a vast quantity of baggage, amongst which was upwards of a hundred blankets.

The main Army in the mean time were engaged in compleating a Bridge over the morass, about 3 o'Clock the whole joined us, we then proceeded to Gaghsguilaheery, the Enemy, previous to our arrival, took possession of an adjacent woods, and made a disposition to oppose us, but on our approach they, as usual, retreated, giving us peaceable possession of the Town.

On the 14th we proceeded on our march towards *Jenise*, the last & Capital town of the Seneca Country, at which place we arrived about 4 o'Clock, P. M., Here we found the Bodies of the brave, but unfortunate Lieut. Boyd and the other prisoner, massacred in the

most cruel & barbarous manner that the human mind can possibly conceive,—the savages having put them to the most excruciating torments possible, first plucking their nails from hands & feet, then whipping, spearing, cutting their flesh from their shoulders and mangling their Bodies, and at last cutting their heads off, and leaving them a pray to their Dogs.

After Interring these unfortunate men with that respect that time & Circumstances would admit, we Encamp'd for the night.

On the 15th the Army was employ'd the greatest part of the Day in destroying Corn, &c., which in quantity was not less than near 300 acres, of the finest I ever beheld.

The immediate objects of the expedition being now accomplished, viz., The total ruin of the Indians settlement (in number about 30) and destruction of all their Corn, which in quantity was not less than One hundred thousand Bushels. The Army about 4 o'Clock, P. M., took up their line of march, and proceeded on their rout to this place where we arriv'd much fatigued & otherwise reduc'd, last evening. On our return we met with a reinforcement of Provisions near Newtown, which was a most pleasing circumstance, as the last was issued at Kanadaguis and nearly expended.

A few days after getting matters in proper order, I expect we shall leave this place for Wyoming, where we shall wait further orders with respect to our rout.

Your Excellency will excuse the incorrectness of my Letter, the bearer being in great hurry and had been waiting some time.

Col. Brewer (Genl Sullivan's secre^y) will deliver you this Letter, I beg leave to recommend him to your Excellency's notice, He is a Gentleman of undoubted Character, and a soldier.

I have the honor to be

with the greatest respect

your Excell'ys

most ob^t h^o serv^t

AD^m HUBLEY, Jr.,

L^t Colo. Com^d 11th R^g.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsy^a Philad^a.

fav'd }
Colo. Brewer. }

JOHN WILCOCKS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

I received your Letter of yesterday, and from the light in which you view the transaction referred to, I am convinced it has been most grossly misrepresented to you, either inadvertently, or from very unworthy motives. I will take the Liberty of stating to your Excellency, the true Circumstance of my Conversation with Charles Hall, and will appeal to your own Candour, to decide, whether upon any fair construction, it is possible to infer an intention on my part, to misrepresent the Conduct, or cast an odium upon your Excellency, or the Council. Charles Hall and David Hall deceased, were indebted to the Estate of Mr. Hockley in £500, by Bond and Mortgage, dated in February 1765, Charles Hall a few Days ago applied to pay off the Debt—In a conversation I had with him upon the Business, and in the course of my expostulation with him, upon the unreasonableness of his paying off so old a Debt in the present depreciated state of the Currency, amongst other things, I mentioned that I believed there was hardly an instance of late, where an old Debt was discharged in the way he proposed, and that I had heard or believed that the President and Council, or State, had refused it in a particular Instance. Now, Sir, the instance I had in my mind at the time, was, that of Mr. Melchor, who I understand now holds a Lot of Ground in Second Street, subject to a Ground Rent, formerly payable to Mr. Andrew Allen, whose Estate is forfeited, and vested in the Commonwealth, and that under the Contract made with Mr. Allen, he had lately applied to The Honorable Executive Council to purchase off the Ground Rent, and to direct the Agents to receive the Money, and that a release of the Rent might be granted him, which I understood had been refused by the Council, and in consequence the Money had been paid into the Treasury.

This Sir I do declare to the best of my recollection, and that of a Gentleman who was present, is a candid relation of what I said respecting your Excellency, the Council, and Government, and I flatter myself, that I have now given you, and the Council (to Whom I shall be pleased to have this Letter communicated) full satisfaction, that what I said to Mr. Hall, naturally arose from what I had heard, and from the Business then on hand, and was mentioned without the least offensive view towards Government. And I presume with all those that know me, my uniform attachment to the Cause of my Country, will place me beyond suspicion of a wish to prejudice its Currency, upon the final Appreciation of which, no inconsiderable part of my Fortune depends.

I am your Excellency's

Most Obedient Servant

JOHN WILCOCKS.

Philadelphia, Oct 1, 1779.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq.

A RETURN OF THE 1ST PENNA. REGIMENT, 1779.

A Return of the Captains & Subaltern Officers of the 1st Penna. Regt, with the Dates of their Commissions. Octob. 1st, 1779.

Octob. 1, 1776.	Samuel Craig	Capt.	resign'd 26 Sep. 1779.
Decem. 1, 1776.	Michael Simpson	ditto.	
Janu ^r 16, 1777.	James Wilson	ditto.	
March 2 ^d , 1777.	William Wilson	ditto.	
October 1, 1777.	Thomas Buchanan	ditto.	
Decem. 8 th , 1778.	David Zeigler	ditto.	
Dec. 8 th , 1778.	John M ^c Clellan	Capt. Lt.	
Jan ^r 14, 1778.	Tho ^r . Boyd	Lieut.	
March 20, 1778.	John Hughes	ditto.	
d ^o . 21, 1778.	Jas. M ^c Farlane	ditto.	
d ^o . 22, '78.	Wm. M ^c Dowell	ditto.	
d ^o . 23, '78.	Edw ^d Crawford	ditto.	
Dec ^r 8 th , '78.	David Hammond	ditto.	
May 12 th , '79.	And ^r Johnston	ditto.	
Ditto 17, '79.	Joseph Collier	ditto.	
June 2 ^d , 1778.	Benjamin Chambers	Ensign.	
March 2, 1779.	Samuel Claypool	ditto.	
May 28, 1779.	Michael Hoffman	ditto.	
ditto 28, 1779.	George Stevenson	ditto.	
ditto 28, 1779.	James Campble	ditto.	

John Hamilton, }
 John M^cMurtre, } To be appointed
 John Scott, } Ensignes.

JAMES CHAMBERS, Col.

1 P. Regt.

To Governor Read.

PRES. REED TO JOHN WILCOCKS, 1779

Sir,

I have rec^d your Letter of this Day, &, as you desire, communicated it to the Council. Since I saw you this Morning, I have seen Andrew Kennedy, another Person who confirms M^r Hall's Acc^t, with aggravating Circumstances. I need not, therefore, tell you that your Letter is unsatisfactory, & that I shall pursue the Measures suggested in my Letter of Yesterday.

I am, Sir,

Your Obed., Hbble. Serv^t,

J. REED.

*Indorsed.*1779, October 1st. To M^r John Wilcocks.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1779.

Philad^a, October 1st, 1779.

Gentlemen :

I have this Moment rec^d your Favour ; having once seen a starving Army, I feel every Sensation which such an Event can create. The inclosed Resolves will inform you what Steps are taken to procure Flour. Further Measures are before the Assembly. We have a Quantity of Flour on hand originally prepared to export for Cloathing for the Troops—since appropriated to satisfy the Demands of M^r Holker for the French Fleet. It is, & will be, coming in daily ; if, therefore, by a Resolution of Congress, or Consent of M^r Holker, the Present Plan of Appropriation is altered, we shall concur, & deliver over to your companies what we now have on Hand, without any Delay.

I am, Gent.,

with due Regard

& Respect, Gent.,

Your Obe^t, Hbble. Serv.

PRES. REED TO MESSRS. BARGE AND TYNG, 1779.

Mess. Barge & Tyng,
Gentlemen,

Being appointed Agents for the Delivery of the Publick Salt agreeable to the joint Resolves of this Board & the Ass^y, you will apply to Col. Hagner or other Person of the late Committee having the Key, & take the Salt* into your Possession.—You are then to pay due Regard to the Orders drawn on you by Mr. William Turnbull our Agent for Flour; these you are to file, & every one is to be served as they present their Orders, & not otherwise.

I am Gent.,

Your obed. Hbble ser.

Indorsed,

1779, October 1st. To Messrs. Barge and Tyng.

PRES. REED TO PURCHASERS OF SALT, 1779.

In Council,
Philad^a, October 2nd, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Council in pursuance of the inclosed Resolve request you to assist in the Execution thereof, for which Purpose they have appointed you Commissioners, and promise you their full Support in performing the several Duties which will be required, as well defraying all contingent Expences & making you such Compensation for your Trouble as shall be just & reasonable. You will therefore without any Delay make due Inquiry into the Quantities of Salt now in the City & Liberties above the Allowance of a Common Family, admitting Possessors of Salt to retain one Peck for every Poll in each Family above 7 Years of Age, the Residue to be considered as publick Property & paid for accordingly.—When you have ascertained the Quantity in each Ward you are then directed to meet & determine how far it may be proper to collect the same into one Place or suffer it to remain in the Custody of the Holders.—If you are of Opinion it may be safely kept & fairly accounted for in the Hands of the respective Owners you will permit the same to be done, taking such Precautions as you deem necessary. If otherwise you are impowered to collect the same at the publick Expence, and lodge it at such Store as you may think proper.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 119.

If any Salt should arrive hereafter you are to consider it as liable to the Resolve & proceed accordingly.

Should you meet with any Opposition or Insult in the Course of your Duty on this Occasion you are authorized to call on the Magistrates, Sheriffs, Constables & other Civil Officers. Once a Week the Council will expect a Report of your Proceedings, & if any Difficulty not foreseen should arise you will apply in writing to the Council, who will give you an immediate Answer and their Support & Advice on all Occasions.

I am Gent.,

Your Obed. Hbble. Servt.,

J. R.

Directed,

To Messrs. William Will, Adam Foulke, Matthew Irwin, Robert Aitken, James Hood, Major Boyd, Paul Coxe, John McCullough, Thomas Cassdrop, Wm. Robinson, Wm. Tharp, George Henry and William Heysham.

PRES. REED TO WM. WILL, &C., 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, October 2nd, 1779.

Gentlemen,

After returning you thanks for your care and trouble respecting the salt, I must acquaint you that the Assembly having taken the subject into Consideration have come to the enclosed Resolve. The Trouble you have already had, & the Necessity of dividing the Duty into Districts so as to prevent Trade have induced us to appoint Gentlemen in different Wards to collect Salt—& Mr. Barge & Mr. Tyng have consented to distribute what is collected. We request you to deliver Mr. Barge and Mr. Tyng the key of the Store, and on furnishing an account of your Expenses we shall pay it due Consideration.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient humble servant,

JOS. REED,

President.

Directed,

To Messrs. William Will, James Wharton, Robert McGee, Alex^r Mills, John Hewson, James Pickering, Frederick Hagner, Warwick Coats, Wm. Semple, James Hood, Robert Aitken and William Brown.

PRES. REED TO HENRY FISHER, 1779.

Philadelphia, October 2nd, 1779.

Sir,

The Council are informed that the Dragon, one of the look-out boats belonging to this state is ashore near Lewis-town,—that she may be caulked and sent up to the city at a small expence and be of considerable value here.—Whether or not she is under your care I am not informed, and therefore request you will please to write me how she is circumstanced, and whether any thing can be made of her.*

I am respectfully

Your humble servant,

T. M.

The Fleet under the command of His Excellency the Count D'Estaing is daily expected on our coast. His Excellency the President requests that you will send to him immediate intelligence of the arrival of the fleet, and also that you will give the earliest possible notice to the boats intending to afford him supplies of fresh provisions.

Directed,

To Mr. Henry Fisher, Lewis-town.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, Oct^r 2, 1779.

Sir,

It appears by returns now before the board that there is the utmost danger of the army's suffering extremely from the want of flour; indeed this event seems unavoidable unless an immediate supply can be obtained & forwarded from this state.—When we had lately the honour of a conference with your Excellency and the honourable the supreme executive council, we understood it was then in contemplation to furnish such supply, but we are now informed that none has yet been delivered to the Commissary. Alarmed at the consequences of a sudden failure of an article so essential to the existence of the army, permit us to intreat the

* See Col Rec., Vol. XII., p. 120.

attention of your Excellency & the honble. board to a point of such vast importance, & to request a grant of such a quantity of flour from the stores of this state as will relieve the army from approaching distress, and prevent so terrible a calamity as the absolute want of bread among the troops. The deep concern we must necessarily feel at the prospect of such an event we hope will apologise for our importunity.

We have the honor
to be very respectfully
your most obed^t servants,
TIM. PICKERING,
by order.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War Office, Oct 2, 1779.

Sir,

The inclosed letter from Mr. Bradford, Commissary of prisoners, represents the necessity of providing for the reception of upwards of two hundred prisoners of war, which are expected to arrive in a day or two from Egg Harbour. The new work house back of the new goal is mentioned as a safe & suitable place for them if it can be spared from the uses to which it is applied by the city & county. We beg leave to ask your aid and direction in the matter that the prisoners may be securely kept until room can be made for them in the New Goal.

We have the honor
to be very respectfully sir,
your most obed^t servants,
TIM. PICKERING,
by order.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President, &c.
War Office.

SECY. MATLACK TO C. J. MCKEAN, 1779.

Philadelphia, October 4, 1779, 10 at night.

Sir,

I feel myself extremely unhappy to inform you of the state of the city, after a very great riot, which has been attended with bloodshed.* One man has been killed, several more mortally wounded, beside a considerable number less dangerously hurt. His Excellency the President orders me to request that you will return to the city immediately, where your presence is highly necessary on this melancholy occasion. What will be the event of to morrow is very uncertain, as the people are heated to an extreme degree.

I am with great respect,
your humble servant,

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

The Honorable Thomas McKean, Esqr., Chief Justice.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Congress, Octor 6th, 1779.

Resolved, That in addition to the sums required by the resolutions of Congress of the 22d Nov^r, 1777, and 2d Jan^r, and 21st May, 1779, the several States be called on to raise in such manner as they may judge expedient, sufficient sums to enable them to pay into the Continental treasury or to the order of Congress on the first day of February next, and on the first day of each succeeding month until the first of Octor next inclusive, their respective proportions of fifteen million dollars.

That all sums which may be so paid by any of the States during the continuance of the War, shall be passed to their respective credits on the terms prescribed by the first article of a resolution of Congress of the 22d Nov^r, 1777; and that the several States be respectively charged with the annual interest of six per Centum on all deficiencies in the payment of the several quotas which have been or may be required of them.

Resolved, that the encouragement offered by the resolution of

* Attack on house of James Wilson, Esq. See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 121, 122, 123, 137-139, 141, 144, 145, 152.

Congress of the 29th June last for promoting Loans, be extended to all sums which may be paid into the Continental loan offices on or before the first day of March next to the amount of the blank Loan office Certificates which are already ordered to be struck by Congress.

That any person subscribing ten thousand dollars or upwards, shall be allowed to pay one half thereof within fourteen days after the subscription, and the residue at the end of two months after the first payment, the whole to bear interest from the time of the first payment, if the other is punctually made.

Octo^r 7th.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several States, to direct their Treasurers to transmit to Congress on the first day of every month, returns of the sums which they may have respectively received for supplying the Continental Treasury. That the money mentioned therein be credited from the respective dates of the returns, and that the same be entered on the journals of Congress.

Resolved, That the quotas of the several States to make up the monthly assessment of fifteen million dollars to be paid the first day of February next, and the first day of October next, inclusive, be as follows :

Newhamphshire,	400,000 dollars
Massachusetts bay,	2,300,000 ditto.
Rhode Island &c.,	200,000 ditto.
Connecticut,	1,700,000 dollars
New York,	750,000 ditto.
New Jersey,	900,000 ditto.
Pennsylvania,	2,300,000 ditto.
Delaware,	170,000 ditto.
Maryland,	1,580,000 ditto.
Virginia,	2,500,000 ditto.
North Carolina,	1,000,000 ditto.
South Carolina,	1,200,000 ditto.
Georgia, being invaded, is hereafter to raise its proportion.	

15,000,000

Resolved, that neither the present nor any former apportionment of quotas of taxes to the several States be considered as a precedent.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1779.

Extract from the Journals of Congress of the 7 of Oct^r last.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several States to direct their Treasurers to transmit to Congress on the first day of every Month, Returns of the sums which they may have respectively received for supplying the Continental Treasury that the money mentioned therein be credited from the respective Dates of the Returns, and that the same be entered on the Journals of Congress.

A true Copy,

ROB. TROUP,
Secretary.

MATTHEW IRWIN &C., TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philad^a, 7th Octo^r, 1779.

Sir,

We hereby take the liberty of acquaint'g your Excellency that in consequence of your orders we have possessed ourselves of about Five hundred Bushels Salt on acco^t of the State, some of the Owners of which are Inhabitants of Jersey, and are very pressing for payment, we therefore request you will furnish us with as much Cash as will pay for about one thousand Bushels, which quant'y we expect to have shortly. We find salt scarce, and have little to depend on but Imports. You will please let us know what Price we are to give for the Salt we have taken.

We are Sir,

your Excellencys most obed. Serv.,
MATTH^r IRWIN,
W^m WILL,
ADAM FOULK.

Directed.

To His Excellency Jos. Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

/

C. J. McKean to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Sir,

Yesterday at one o'clock I was favored with a letter from the Secretary, dated at ten o'clock on Monday night, informing me of a great riot that has happened that day in the city, attended with bloodshed; that one man had been killed, several mortally wounded and a considerable number less dangerously hurt; and that it was your request, that I should return immediately to the city, as my presence there was highly necessary on this melancholy occasion. I received this letter when on the Bench, and just after the trial of a certain Dennis Dunn had commenced for an aggravated burglary; there was no other judge in Town but Mr. Atlee, Mr. Evans having been excused attending for a few days on the account of the dangerous indisposition of a son and in such circumstances I thought it best to proceed with the trial; the Prisoner was convicted about nine o'clock last night. My own inclination, added to your reasonable and pressing request, leads me to repair to the city but when I reflect, that the courts of Oyer & Terminer & Nisi Prius, for this and York county, in which there is a great deal of business indeed, will be frustrated entirely by my departure; that I could not get into Town before to-morrow afternoon, and that probably all may be quiet before I could arrive, I, with the advice of Justice Atlee have concluded that it will be most conducive to the advantage of the public to stay here and go on with the business of the courts, until I hear further from the city. There are no less than three special Juries summoned for civil business in this county.

I flatter myself that the above reasons will sufficiently apologize for my remaining here until I hear again from Philad^a. This will be handed to your Excellency by Councillor Hambright. The Express did not come near me, nor have I been able to find an earlier opportunity of writing to you.

No circumstances respecting this unhappy disturbance have reached us, except what are contained in Mr. Matlack's letter. I am this moment called upon to examine into the cases of George Leech and James Bulla, for having upon them quantities of counterfeit 40 & 30 dollar Bills of the emission of Septem^r 26th 1778, and for passing several yesterday in this Borough—They have been long suspected, and were once before charged, but escaped: they are men of property and appear deeply engaged in the circulation of these counterfeits.

I am, Sir, with the utmost regard,

Your Excellency's

most obedient humble servant,

THO. Mc KEAN.*

Lancaster, October 7th, 1779.

P. S. There are no less than 25 Prisoners in York Goal for cap-

* See page 732.

o'clock and then concluded that Business had prevented your writing.

I Am with perfect Esteem

Sir your most obedient

humble Servant,

A^c. ST. CLAIR.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire.

SECV. MATLACK TO STOKELY HOFFMAN, 1779.

Philadelphia, October 8th, 1779.

Sir,

Your letter to His Excellency the President respecting, Buckridge Sims, John Drinker Matthew Johns and Thomas Story has been laid before him. I have his order to inform them, thro you, that they will be heard as soon as the Chief Justice arrives in town, which it is expected will be this day—You will also please to inform them, that a regard to their own safety in a time of such confusion and danger When suspicions against them have so generally prevailed in the minds of the people, ought to induce them to submit patiently to the inconvenience of a few days confinement, rendered unavoidable by the extent of the riot which happened on Monday and the length of time necessary for a hearing of so many Cases as well as by the attention of the state to other *extraordinary* business of the highest importance.

I am &c.

your Very humble servant

T. M. Sec^y.

Directed,

To Stokely Hoffman, Goal^r.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL TO THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, 1779.

In Council, Philadelphia,

October 8th, 1779.

His Excellency the President having this morning received the enclosed letter from His Excellency General Washington, dated West Point, 4th October 1779,* The Council have thought it proper to lay the same before you for your advice, and assistance, fully considering that the magnitude and importance of the object of it will engage the immediate and most serious attention of your honorable house.

By order of the Council,

GEO. BRYAN,

Vice president.

Indorsed.

Message from Council Oct. 8, and a Letter from Gen'l Washington.

Oct. 8, 1779, Read & referred to Mr. Clymer, T. Smith, Lacey, Harris, Hartley.

Directed,

To the Honorable The Speaker of the House of General Assembly.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Circular.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit your Excellency sundry resolutions of Congress of the 6th and 7th instant, for supplying the Continental Treasury, and to request the earliest communication of them to the Legislative authority of your State.

The money which Congress are at liberty to emit will probably be expended in the beginning of December next, and subsequent supplies must be furnished by the State—this evinces the necessity of the punctual payment of their respective quotas, on which their publick credit, the existence of their Army and the support of their liberties so greatly depend.

Congress are deeply concerned to find that the sums required are so great, but since the emissions are limited they doubt not the

* Not found.

operation of taxes and other salutary measures in the course of the year will reduce the prices of articles and enable them to lessen the quotas required, or apply part thereof to diminish the public debt—to promote so desirable an object, Congress, on their part, will endeavour to observe the strictest Oeconomy in the expenditures.

I have only to add, that warrants will be issued on the Treasurers of the respective States for the quotas to be furnished on the first of January next, and that I remain, with the greatest respect,

your Excell'ys

most obedient

and very humble servant,

SAM'L HUNTINGTON,*

President.

Philada., 9th Octobr, 1779.

Directed,

To His Excellency The President of Pennsylvania.

REPORT TO ASSEMBLY, 1779.

In General Assembly,

Saturday, October 9th, 1779.

The Committee appointed to ascertain the Compensation due to the following Civil Officers and others for the Services of the year now last past &c, made a Report in Writing, which being considered was agreed to as follows.

To his Excellency the president of the Supreme Executive Council, £20 000

To the Honorable the Vice President, 10 000

To the other Members of Council 20 dollars per day each, the 5th of April last past.

To the Honorable the Members of Congress for this State 24 dollars per day each, since the 5th of April last past.

To the Honorable the Chief Justice, £12 000
the Puisne Judges each. 6 000

the Attorney General, 4 000

the Secretary of the Supreme Executive Council 5 000

the Lieutenants of Counties since the 5th of April last past, 12 dollars $\frac{2}{3}$ diem.

the Sub Lieutenants of Counties $\frac{2}{3}$ diem since the 5th of April last past, 10 dollars.

* Elected Pres't Sep. 28th, see Col. Rec., Vol. XII, p. 116.

To the Speaker of the General Assembly for each day during this sitting.	£10
To each Member per diem	20 dollars,
To the Clerk of the House	£10 9 diem,
To the Assistant Clerk	9 ditto,
To the door keeper 10 dollars 9 diem,	
Mileage five Shillings per Mile.	

Extract from the Minutes

JOHN MORRIS, Jr.,
Clk. of Gen assy.

RESOLUTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1779.

Saturday 9th of October, 1779.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

A Message from the Supreme Executive Council setting forth "That His Excellency The President had expressed to Council his apprehensions of great distresses among poor Housekeepers in this City from the high price of flour, and proposed the taking measures in concert with the House for their relief by distributing among them one hundred barrels of flour, giving a preference to such families as have performed Militia duty, And also to take some effectual measures to obtain a supply of Wood to the City; And that Council concurred in Opinion with His Excellency," and requesting the House to take the same into Consideration was read, and thereupon,

Resolved, That the Supreme Executive Council be and they are hereby authorized to distribute one hundred Barrels among the poor aforesaid, having a particular respect to the Families of such Militia Men as shall serve on the present expedition, which flour so distributed shall be procured at the expence of this State.

Extract from the Minutes,

JOHN MORRIS Junr, Clerk.*

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII, p. 125.

RESOLUTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1779.

Saturday, 9th October, 1779.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania,

The Committee to whom the Letter from His Excellency General Washington relative to a supply of Militia &c. was referred, made a Report in writing, which after some debate, was agreed to as follows.

Whereas it is necessary that a Body of Militia should be immediately drawn forth into actual service to co-operate with the Continental Army against the common enemy—This House therefore fully impressed with the necessity of a spirited exertion at the present important Crisis,

Do Recommend to the Supreme Executive Council of this State, that they take such measures either by drawing out the Militia in classes and influencing them to serve for three Months by such Bounties, Exemptions and other motives, as they in their prudence shall judge to be necessary; or otherwise to form a Corps equal to the number of effective men required for the said service on such Terms as they shall find to be requisite, referring the said Council to the Succeeding House of General Assembly for approbation & legal sanction of their proceedings in this case, in-as-much as the time this House can legally sit is too short to admit of such formal proceedings as the business requires.

Extract from the Minutes,

JOHN MORRIS Jun^r, Clerk.*

RESOLUTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1779.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

October 10th, 1779.

The Assembly of Pennsylvania, taking into their Consideration the services performed by General Wayne, and the Officers and Soldiers of the Pennsylvania Line in the attack on Stony Point, and the Recommendation of the Supreme Executive Council,

Resolved, That the thanks of this House be given to General Wayne, and the Officers and Soldiers of the Pennsylvania Line, for the Courage and Conduct displayed by them in the Attack on Stony Point. The Honor they have reflected on the State to which they belong, the Clemency they shewed to those in their power in a situation when, by the Laws of War, and stimulated by resentment occasioned by the Remembrance of a former Massacre, they would have

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XII., p. 123-4.

been justified in putting to Death every one of the Garrison, will transmit their names, with honor, to the latest posterity, and will shew that true bravery and humanity are inseparable.

Resolved, That this Resolution be transmitted to the Supreme Executive Council, and that they be requested to transmit the same to General Wayne, to be by him conveyed to the Officers and Soldiers of the Pennsylvania Line under his Command, in the Attack above mentioned.

Signed by Order of the House.*

JOHN BAYARD, Speaker.

CAPT. CLUGGAGE TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Fort Robartdeau, Oct^r, 10th, 1779.

Sir,

I Rec^d your Letter some time agoe, Daited Aug^t 20th, which Surprised me very much that you have not Received my returns of my Progress in Recruiting at Different times before the Date of your Letter, as I have sent Expresses with Different Letters as far down as Carlisle, allowing them to be forwarded by the first oportunity from thare. But it's likely the ware miscarried by some means, therefore would be glad to know by what means I am to send you returns—whether by Express or no; if by Express, how the are to be furnished with money to pay their Expences.

You say you have been informed I have Indulged my men with leting them go to their homes. I acknowledge I have Indulged a few of them, such as had Grain to Reep, (and save it) as it appeared to me to be a loss to the State to let grain be destroyed for want of reaping whare it is so very scarce as it is in this frontier, rendered so from the different Incursions of the enemy. I am very much Surprised to hear that Gentlemen of Note in the County have had reason to Complain of me, as I am conscious I have done every thing that could be expected from me towards Protecting the Suffering Frontiers of this County. But, Sir, I must inform you that there are Gentlemen in this County that would not be Satisfyed with my Conduct, Except I would furnish them and their families with a gard at their own houses, so that the might follow their Labour without Dangour; however, that is out of my Power; for it would take at least a regiment to afford that Protection to every famaly in the Quarter I am Stationed in, and have grate reason to think it must be some of these Gentlemen that have Logged the Complaint; therefore, in order to Justify my Character, would take it as a favour if you would Let me know the Gentlemen's names by first oportunity.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 135.

My Company has been Reviewed, and Past muster, 8 Officers & 43 Rank and file, one of the Latter killed or taken. I have made application to Mr Carson for the necessaries promised—have rec^d Some of them, But no Blankets Except four; the are very necessary at this Season of the year, and Can't be done without; therefore would be glad Mr Carson Could be furnished with them by some means, as I have promised them to the men. Would be Glad to know who I must apply to pay the Doctor's Bills, as I have Been under the necessity of applying to one for some of my Company, and payed him out of my own Pocket.

I am, Sir,

with respect,

Your Very Humb^l Serv^t

THOMAS CLUGAGE

Directed,

To Joseph Reed, Precedent of Council in State of Pennsylvania.

To Care of Col. Jn^r Davis, Carlisle.

J. D. SERGEANT TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philad^a, 10 Oct^r, 1779.

Sir,

In pursuance of an Order of Council, I commenced an Action at the Suit of Jesse Jordan ag^t Gen^l Arnold—That Action is now abated by the Plif^s. Death.

No Application as yet has been made to me on the part of his Exrs. or Adms^s., if there are any. As the State is interested in the Event of this Affair, should be glad to receive such Directions as may be thought proper in this Situation of the Business, & for that End have thought it my Duty to communicate this Intelligence. Jesse Jordan has been lately murdered in Chester County.

I have the Honour to be,

with great Respect,

Your Excellency's most

hble. & obed^t Serv^t,

JON^a. D. SERGEANT.

Directed,

Write to Col. Boyd.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, Presid^t in Council.

VICE PRESIDENT BRYAN TO C. J. McKEAN, 1779.

Philad^a., 10 Octobr, 1779.

Dear Sir,

The President being very ill yesterday, desired that the most pressing letter might be written, to urge your presence here immediately, the business of the present circuit notwithstanding. Happily, his fit has remitted in the evening, & the bark was administered. The return of the fever this day was lighter, yet produced some delirium.

In this situation, and seeing the public quiet is greatly restored, the President, unwilling that the course of Justice should be disturbed but from the greatest necessity, wishes it were in his power to intercept your return hither. For this purpose the bearer is despatched.

The Genl. Mercer with a prize, is arrived—a Ship bound from Halifax to Sumatra laden with codfish.

I am, &c.,

G. B., v. p.

To Thos. McKean, Esqr.

V. P. BRYAN TO GENL. WILKINSON, 1779.

In Council,

Philadelphia, October 11th, 1779.

Sir,

Council request that you will immediately cause to be packed up two thousand suits of Cloathes, to be forwarded as soon as possible to the sub-Clothier at Camp, for the use of the troops of the Pennsylvania Line.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient &

Very humble servant,

GEORGE BRYAN,

Vice President.

To Gen. Wilkinson, Clothier General of the United States, or his Deputy.

JACOB MYRES, &c., TO V. P. BRYAN, 1779.

Mudd Island, October 11th, 1779.

Honble Sir,

This night I hayled a Sloop from the platform three times, & got an answer to no purpose, which Occation'd me to fire a Gunn to bring her to. She Kept Sail, Which occasioned me to Order my barge man'd & Rowed after her, & Bordered her near where the Shevoidriez's are building, I asked the Capt^a what he had on board, he made answer that he had a Sweep-hold, My Curicity Leded me to Seroh, & found on Board the following Articles, Viz., 80 Bundles of Rod Iron, 13 Bowlts of Canvice, 12 Keggs of Gun Powder, 1 pine Box, the Contents unknown, Directed to Saml. Proveance, Baltimore, Besides Trunks, which he said Belonged to the passengers; finding these Goods I asked him for his Clearance? he said he had none, likewise for his permit? he had none; I asked him whom the powder Belonged, he Said a Jew.

P. S. With Compliances to the Orders of Council, we thought fit to Detain the Vesel till Orders from Council.

We, the Undernamed Officers, Certifies the Contents to be true,
 JACOB MYRES, Lt of Artillery.
 JOHN POLLARD, 1 Lt.
 ANDREW MYERS, Ensign.

Directed,

To George Bryan, Vice President, Philadelphia.

V. P. BRYAN TO OFFICERS AT MUD ISLAND, &c., 1779.

In Council,

Philada., October 11th, 1779.

Sir,

The Council have this day thought it proper to lay an embargo on provisions of all kinds for the space of thirty days, in order the more effectually to secure a suply for the Army of His Excellency General Washington, and for the fleet of our Great Ally, His Most Christian Majesty.

You are therefore to take care that no vessels be permitted to pass the forts without a regular clearance.

By order of the Council.

GEORGE BRYAN,
 Vice President.*

To the Officer Commanding at Mud Island and Billingsport.

* G. Bryan resigned as V. P. on this same day and "Hon. Matthew Smith Esq.," was elected Vice President.—He only continued till Oct. 23, and Wm. Moore was elected his Successor, Nov. 11. See Col. Rec., Vol. XII, p. 127, 148, 163.

JOHN MITCHELL TO PRES. REED, 1779.

War & Ordinance Office, 11 Oct., 1779.

Sir,

There will be wanting to Transport Stores in the Ordnance Department at least one Hundred Waggon, Immediately, so fast as you collect them let Forty or Fifty be immediately sent to Valley Forge, the cross Roads, three Miles from the Swedes Ford & French Creek, to transport the Eighteen Pounder shell at those places to Camp. Inform us of the Waggon as they come in & we will order their Lading. We suppose it will be necessary to apply to the State, which you will do with the utmost Dispatch The Waggon collected in the Quarter of the country above mentioned, will, no doubt be first set at Work.

We are your Obed. Servants,

RICHARD PETERS.

By order.

Col. J. Mitchell, D. Q. M. G.
Philada., (Copy.)

Philada., 11 Oct., 1779.

Sir,

I have this moment received the Original of the above Copy from the Board of War. As it is not in my power to furnish the Number of Waggon required, without your Excellency's Warrant to Impress them, I request you will be pleased to grant me Warrants for that purpose; there is very considerable Demands made on me by the Clothier General and others, which will make it extremely difficult to procure the number of Waggon required at this time. If you think it proper to grant Warrants for one Hundred & Twenty good four Horse Teams, I believe it will be sufficient.

I have the Honour to be,

With great respect,

Your Excellency's most

Obed^t hum^e serv^t,

JNO. MITCHELL, D. Q. M. G.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President of state of Pennsylvania.

V. P. SMITH TO OFFICERS AT MUD ISL'D, 1779..

In Council,

Philad^a, Octobr 12, 1779.

Sir,

The Council received the letter from Lt. Myers & others dated yesterday respecting Wirtz shallop—your Vigilance in stoping this Vessel at the present crisis is very agreeable to the council and entitles you to thanks—it is not the intention of Council to lay any difficulties on the river trade, the Council therefore desire you will permit Mr Wirtz to pass, and not to stop any vessel but such as have provisions on board, agreeably to the pass given this morning to Cap^t Wirtz by the secretary.

The proclamation for the embargo will be sent you tomorrow by which the intention of it will be shewn to you.

I am

with due respect
your humble Servant

MATTHEW SMITH,
Vice President.*

Attest, T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Directed,

To Officers commanding at Billingsport & Mud island.

CIRCULAR OF COUNCIL TO LIEUTENANTS, 1779..

In Council,

Philadelphia, October 18, 1779.

Sir,

The approach of the Fleet of His most Christian Majesty; under the command of the Count D'Estaing, intended to co-operate with the American army, under the command of His Excellency General Washington, affording the faintest prospect of success in a vigorous effort to expel, or make captive of the British invaders, who have so long ravaged our country and who have lately attempted to spread fire and desolation thro it. The State of Pennsylvania is called upon to furnish a body of Militia to the aid of the Continental army.

You are therefore hereby ordered to call forth classes of

* See pages 745.

the Militia of your county, according to law, with all possible expedition to rendezvous at Trenton in the state of New Jersey.

The Arms and accoutrements belonging to the state which are in your hands, are to be applied in arming the men who turn out on this occasion. Such blankets belonging to the state as are in your possession, are also to be applied to their use during this tour of duty. And any person who shall furnish himself with arms and blankets, or either of them, having the same appraised by two reputable freeholders and the appraisements lodged before marching in your hands, or the hands of the Col^e or Lieut Col^e of the Battalion to which he belongs, shall have the same paid for by the state in case of their being lost in any engagement with the enemy.

The deficiency of arms accoutrements & blankets will be made up at Trenton.

In order to encourage the freemen of the state to a ready compliance with their duty this Council have thought proper to pay to each man (both officers & privates) who shall now serve his tour, for two months, according to law, the sum of *eighty dollars* in addition to the sum of twenty pounds allowed by law. Twenty pounds thereof to be paid immediately in hand twenty pounds more to be by the almoner distributed to the family of such Militia man in his absence if necessary, and the remainder with the monthly pay, to be paid at the expiration of the term of his service.

But as His Excellency General Washington has it much at heart now to close the war in America by a vigorous and glorious effort, nothing would be more mortifying and distressing than to fail in this great attempt by the shortness of the time which the militia of the state are by law to serve in the field. And it would be disgraceful in the highest degree for the freemen of Pennsylvania should they fail in their duty to their country at a time when our illustrious ally has generously afforded us such a powerful assistance both in ships and men, as undoubtedly will enable us to strike a decisive blow against the enemy, now in the bowels of our country.

In order—as much as in us lies to remove this danger from before us, and to secure the success which every friend of his country must ardently wish for, you are hereby authorized to pay to every able man who shall engage to serve one month longer than he is by law obliged to serve, the sum of fifty pounds in addition to the sum above mentioned, making in the whole the sum of one hundred pounds—forty pounds thereof to be paid in hand—forty pounds to be distributed in his absence to his family, and the remaining twenty pounds to be paid him on the expiration of the said term of three months.

It is the earnest desire of the Council that you exert your utmost influence with the people of your County to induce such of them as turn out on this call to engage to serve for three months. You may assure those who engage to serve for that time, that if the service does not absolutely require their continuance in the field they will

be sooner discharged, and the full bounty notwithstanding be paid to them. The form hereunder will be proper to be signed by those who enter for three months.

You are to give the earliest possible notice to this council of the numbers which you can depend on to turn out on this call and also the number which each class bears that is now to be called out.

COUNCIL TO COL. JOHN COXE, 1779.

October 18, 1779.

Sir,

Mr. Mitchell, your deputy here, has called upon us for a press warrant for 40 or 50 Waggon's to carry cannon shot from Chester County to Camp. This application is made in circumstances that are extremely difficult. The pay of £5 per diem is now become so totally inadequate, that I doubt not the Waggon's every where would be disabled if not destroyed, on the first Idea of being dragged into the Service on such terms. Our representations to your department last summer, induced your deputies to hire Carriages by the barrell or otherwise; and since that the farther depreciation has put the drawing out of Waggon's under our Law, quite out of the reach of possibility.

You will perhaps enquire, why the Legislature, lately risen, have not considered of this business, & interposed to make it practicable. If an opinion may be hazarded in such a Case, I would say, that the Waggon-Service has been so peculiarly grievous on the husbandmen of Pennsylvania, that it was wished the laws for impressing their Carriages & Horses, which no other State has imitated, should expire in silence, as they soon will by their own Limitation.

It is likely, as the Country work at this time begins to slacken a little, that if you would offer the farmers, who yet have Waggon's, (for their number is by the unequal burden on the possessors of such property, greatly reduced, & dayly declining,) a price proportioned to the rates at which other services are paid, you might attain the Carriages easily now wanted. To rely on Press-Warrants will only harrass & provoke the honest Countrymen, & tho' in a small instance, it might surprize & fix some few at the present, yet it will at once put a full stop to the procuring of Waggon's.

Why indeed the possessor of a Team should be treated on this unequal footing, it is hard to say. While the Iron-master, the merchant, & the farmer in other respects, are paid the Current price for their goods, these persons are selected to be dragged into public service at an inferior hire. Believe me, Sir, this is neither fair nor political. Why should a man be punished for keeping up a Team? —at this rate, the Country will soon be very bare of Carriages.

PRES. REED TO JENIFER & ROOT, 1779.

Oct. 15, 1779.

Gent.,

Our Reluctance to add to the publick Expense prevented our giving any decisive Answer to your Request this Morning that we would name a suitable Rate for the Hire of the Waggon untill we had made Inquiries what Rates our Neighbours had, & what were the Expectations of our own People. Our Committee have reported that in New Jersey there being no law to compel Waggon Service beyond 3 Days, the Quarter Masters depend upon Contracts which are very various according to the Supplies they receive of Forage, Cloathing, Repairs, &c., so as to afford no Line of Comparison or Guidance. The Price of £4. 10 was fixed in this State in September, 1778, since when the Prices of all other Articles have increased at least Ten fold—In July last 10s. 3^d Day was added to the Hire. The Price now between Man & Man is £25 3^d Day—but we have concluded, all Circumstances considered, to recommend to the Hon. Committee to add £7 3^d Day to the present Price, which we hope will be fully satisfactory and produce the desired number of Teams.—The Committee will be pleased to consider that fixing it themselves rather than being done by a Law of the State—Congress will allways have it in their Power to alter it on any Change of Circumstances.

I am with great Respect & Regard,

Gent., your obed. Hbbl. Serv.*

Directed,

To the Hon. Mr. Jenifer & Mr. Root.

LT. COL. JOSEPH HARMAR TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

Camp, West Point, October 15th, 1779.

Sir,

I have the Honor of transmitting your Excellency a Return of the Strength of the Eight Regiments which at present compose the Pennsylvania Division, specifying when their Times expire. The three other Regiments of our Line being detached, cannot be ascertained

As the whole Army now undergoes a Monthly Inspection I beg leave to state to your Excellency the Condition of our Troops. Their

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII, p. 181.

Clothing (which was drawn last Fall at Fredericksburg) is now old and tattered. Shirts and Blankets greatly wanted, and scarcely a good Hat in the whole Division. The daily & hard Fatigue at this Post must consequently soon render them still worse. But notwithstanding all these Inconveniences they are well armed and out as clean and decent an Appearance as Circumstances can possibly admit.

I addressed your Excellency on the 25th last August in regard to promotions and appointments which I wish to take place in the 6th P. R., and have directed Captain Nice (who is gone sick to Germantown) to call respecting them. Should they meet your Excellencies approbation, shall be happy in having them transmitted as early as possible.

I have the Honor to be

with the greatest Esteem,

your Excellencies most hble. & obed. Serv.,

JOS. HARMAR, Lt Col. Com. 6th P. R.,
& Inspector Pennsa. Line.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

STATE OF THE REGIMENTS COMPRISING MAJOR GENERAL ST CLAIR'S DIVISION, 1779.
At Maser.
Camp West Point, October 15th, 1779.

2 ^d Brigade.		1 st Brigade.		Brigades.		COMMISSIONED.													STAFF.	NON COMMISSIONED AND PRIVATE.										TOTAL.
				No. of Reg'ts.		BY WHOM COMMANDED.																								

N. B.—One Sergeant of the 2nd, 2 Captains of the 10th, One Lt. of the 6th, The Colonel & 1 private of the 6th, & 1 Captain & Lt. of the 8th above included are prisoners.
 One private of the 4th is included in the Total of the 8th—& two privates of the German Regiment or Willner's Corps are included in the Total of 6th.
 JOS. HARMAR, Lt. Col. Com't 6th P. R., & Inspector Pennsylvania Line.

COMMISSIONERS FOR COLLECTING FLOUR, TO PRES. REED,
- 1779.

Sir,

We the Subscribers having met in the Borrough of Lancaster, Pursuant to an Act of General Assembly of this State, appointing us amongst others; Commissioners for Collecting of flour for this County to Supply the french fleet, have agreed on the following prices Viz. fifteen Pounds for every Bushel of merchantable wheat weighing Sixty Pounds, and forty two Pounds for every Hundred weight of good merchantable flour; to be paid in each and every of our Several districts, the Costs of the Quota of our County, Reckoning the Casks, Cooperage, &c. at £3 amounts to, upon a Rough Calculation, £326250 which Said Sum, Agreeable to the Opinion of Said Commissioners ought to be in their hands, in order to Enable them to purchase the Same; And we have agreed that Mr Thomas Edwards one of Said Commissioners, is to Carry this down to you, in order to let you know, our Sentiments on the Same.

We are Sir,

with the Greatest Respect

your Excellency's most obedient

Humble Servants,

JAMES JACKS,
RICHARD FREE,
JAMES ANDERSON Jr.,
MICHAEL FOUTS,
DAVID WATSON,
HUGH DEDEN,
MARTIN HOLMAN,
THOMAS EDWARDS.

Lancaster, 15th October, 1779.*Directed,*

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of the State of
Pennsylvania.

COL. LEWIS FARMER TO COUNCIL, 1779.

To the Honourable the Supreme Executive Council of the Common
Wealth of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

I would beg Leave to Inform Council, that the Store now Occupied by me, is not near large Enough to Contain the Goods, wanted for the Troops of this State, and as there is a Store under the same Roof, now Occupied by Col. George Henry with some Naval Stores of this State, which could be moved up stairs in One Day, Or less by the hands of One of the Gallies, it would Enable me to Receive and Pack all the Goods, Purchased by the Agent, by having the Windows, now out of Order Repaired, I would further beg leave to Observe, that I am much distress'd, for want of Buttons, for Vests and Overalls in particular, Many of them laying now at the Taylors & can't be finished.

Lastly, I would humbly Observe to the Honourable the Council, that my Pay as Clothier is Ordered to be the same Mr. Howell Received at Lancaster in the Years 1777 & 78, viz. five Dollars p^r Day. Every Article of Life being Raised now to so Enormous a Price, I would beg Council would take it into their Consideration, to add One Ration to my Pay.

I am Gentlemen, with the Greatest Respect

your most Obedient and

very humble Servant,

LEWIS FARMER.

Philad^a, October 15th, 1779.

COL. A. LOCHRY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Hannastown, October 15th, 1779.

Sir,

You will receive herewith Twenty four old Licences with £27 0 0 which you will receive by the Hands of Capt. Erwin.

I am sorry to inform you that the Publick Calamities of this County have obliged me to remove my office at sundry times from one place of Safety to another by which means some of them might be mislaid but shall write you more particularly on this head by the next opportunity.

I beg you will send me a Dozen new ones by Capt. Erwin.

Am with great respect,

your most humble Serv^t,

A. LOCHRY, Proth^r.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack Esq.

CAPT. JAMES MONTGOMERY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Cape May, october, 6th, 1779.

Sir,

I have Just Anchor'd hear and take this opportunity of Informing your Excellency of our Wellfair tho we have had a Continued Gail of wind yet we have made a shift to Pick up three Prizes one a New York Privateer & the other Retakin Vessels the Brig Hulkler was in Company when we took one of the last, all of which I hoop are arrived by this time.

The Ship has Suffered a Good Deal in her riging &c., but in two or three Days Shall be abell to Put to Sea a Gain whear I Shall Continue but a Short tim as our Provisions is all most Expended and the weather Getting to hostorous for our poor Egg Shell to Cruze on this Coast you may Expect Shortly to hear from us a Gain.

I remain your Excellency's

Much oblig^d Serv^t

JAMES MONTGOMERY.

Since I Sealed this letter an English Frigate stood Close in with Cape Hinlopen and is Now Standing to the East North East.

*Directed,*His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r.

ADAM HUBLEY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Easton, October 18th, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Western Army, after compleating the important expedition, arrived safe at this place a few days since, and I flatter myself they have far more than fully surpass'd the most sanguine expectations of those whose eyes were more immediately looking on us for success.—A full narrative of our proceedings, I have already had the honor to transmit to your Excellency hope it came to hand.

Capt. Jackson will wait on your Excellency for an order, for Stores &c., for the use of my Regiment—Inclosed is an exact return of the same.—The benefit we derived from your generous Provisions (stores) on the last Campaign demands our most grateful acknowledgements, and I am particularly requested to return the thanks of

the Regiment to your Excellency, for the great attention which on all occasions you have been pleas'd to shew them. I hope their future conduct will meritt a continuance of your favours.

It is still out of our power to pay, for the last supply of stores, owing to our not receiving pay, for a number of months past. I expect shortly the pay of the Regiment, when the proper stopages shall be made, and the mony for the stores transmitted.

I have the honour to be with greatest
esteem your Excell^y most ob. h. Serv^t

AD^l. HUBLEY, Jr., Lt. Colo.
Com. 11th Pa. Reg^t.

A Return of the Officers of my Regiment, agreeable to your request, was transmitted to your Excellency by Gen^l Hand, within these few days, hope it has reached you, before this.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r President of the state of Pennsylvania Philadelphia,

GEN. JOHN SULLIVAN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Head Quarters, Easton, October 18th, 1779.

Sir,

The Army under my Command arrived here on Fryday & was to march for Head Quarters on monday but his Excellency Signified his pleasure that I should remain at this place for a few Days. The Inhabitants of this County had agreed to furnish me with waggons on monday but it now being uncertain, when I Shall move & there being a possibility that Some Disappointment may happen for want of Teams I must beg the Executive Council to forward me a warrant or warrants for one hundred waggons. I am in hopes that I Shall not want to use the warrants as the people may Supply me of their own Accord in which Case I shall return the warrants to your Excellency. I have the honor to be with due Respect y^r Exor^{ty} most obed^t Serv^t,

JN^o. SULLIVAN.

Drected,

On publick Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Executive Council Pennsylvania.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Circular.

Philadelphia, Oct. 20, 1779.

Sir,

You will receive enclosed herewith, an Act of Congress of this day, recommending to the several States, that Thursday, the ninth of December next, be appointed a day of public thanksgiving.

I have the honor to be,

with sentiments of

esteem and regard,

Your Excellency's hum' serv^t,

SAM'L HUNTINGTON,

President.

Directed,

(On public service.)

To His Excellency The President of the State of Pennsylvania.

PROCLAMATION OF CONGRESS FOR THANKSGIVING DAY,
1779.

Proclamation.

Whereas it becomes us humbly to approach the Throne of Almighty God with gratitude and praise for the wonders which his goodness has wrought in conducting our forefathers to this western world; for his protection to them, and to their posterity, amid difficulties and dangers; for raising us, their Children, from deep distress to be numbered among the nations of the earth; and for arming the hands of just and mighty princes in our deliverance; and especially for that he hath been pleased to grant us the enjoyment of health, and so to order the revolving seasons that the earth hath produced her increase in abundance, blessing the labours of the husbandmen, and spreading plenty through the land; that he hath prospered our Arms, and those of our Ally; been a shield to our troops in the hour of danger, pointed their swords to Victory, and led them in triumph over the bulwarks of the foe; that he hath gone with those who went out into the Wilderness against the savage tribes; that he hath stayed the hand of the spoiler, and turned back his meditated destruction; that he hath prospered our Commerce, and given success to those who fought the enemy on the face of the deep; and above all, that he hath diffused the glorious light of the

Gospel, whereby, through the merits of our gracious Redeemer, we may become the heirs of his eternal glory; Therefore,
Resolved,

That it be recommended to the several States to appoint Thursday, the ninth of December next, to be a day of public and solemn thanksgiving to almighty God for his mercies, and of prayer for the Continuance of his favour and protection to these United States; to beseech him that he would be graciously pleased to influence our public Councils and bless them with wisdom from on high, with unanimity, firmness and success; that he would go forth with our hosts, and Crown our arms with Victory; that he would grant to his Church the plentiful effusions of divine grace, and pour out his holy spirit on all ministers of the Gospel; that he would bless and prosper the means of education, and spread the light of Christian knowledge through the remotest Corners of the earth; That he would smile upon the labours of his people, and cause the earth to bring forth her fruits in abundance, that we may with gratitude and gladness enjoy them; That he would take into his holy protection our illustrious Ally, give him victory over his enemies, and render him signally great as the father of his people, and the protector of the rights of mankind; That he would graciously be pleased to turn the hearts of our enemies, and to dispense the blessings of peace to contending nations; that he would in mercy look down upon us, pardon all our sins, and receive us into his favour; and finally, that he would establish the Independence of these United States upon the basis of religion and virtue, and support and protect them in the enjoyment of peace, liberty & safety.

Done in Congress the twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine, and in the fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America.*

SAM'L HUNTINGTON, President.

Attest,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

SEC'Y MATLACK TO ABEL JAMES, 1779.

Philadelphia, Octobr 20, 1779.

Sir,

Col. Strouds letter to me respecting the salt seized by the Agents of the state. I have laid before the Council and represented his case as fully as it is my power to do. The Council are of opinion that they cannot order the salt to be delivered to him without subjecting the

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XII., page 145.

publick to many inconveniences by the precedent, and therefore cannot comply with this request.

The respect which I feel for Col. Stroud induces me to wish it had been in my power, consistent with the general interest of the state, to have obtained his request. I did hope it but am disappointed.

With due respect

I am your Friend

& very humble servant

T. MATLACK, Secy.

Directed,

Mr Abel James.

PRES. REED TO COLO. WILL, &c. ,1779.

Gentlemen,

Notwithstanding our positive Orders & Authorities with which we have invested you, we are informed that some Persons do sell Salt out of Vessels. I do request you to exert yourselves to prevent it, & hope you will enable me to apprehend any Persons who thus trifle with the Interest & Necessities of the publick.

I am informed there is now a Vessel below the Draw Bridge, which has sold Salt on private Account & yet continues so to do. I must request your Interposition & take the Salt into your immediate Possession it being our fixed Resolution to put a stop to such Practices.

I am Gentlemen

your Obed. H^bbl Servt

JOS. REED,

President.

Council Chamber,

Oct. 20, 1779.

Directed,

To Col. Will, George Henry, Matthew Irwin, Col. Cox, &c.

PRES. REED, TO JAMES CRAWFORD, &c., 1779.

In Council,
P^a October 20th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Petition & State of the County of Northumberland has been duly received by the Hand of M^r Crawford & attended to. In consequence thereof & of the Necessity of providing for your Safety we have applied to the Board of War for an Order to detach 150 Men of the Force left at Wyoming to Sunbury from whence they will take such Stations as may be agreed on by you and the commanding Officers so as to give most effectual Support & Protection to the distressed Inhabitants—Perhaps it may be thought best to rebuild Fort Muncy & Fort Jenkins, but this is left to your Judgment as being more competent Judges of the Circumstances & Situation of the County. We have it much at Heart to give you all the Security which Circumstances will admit & hope you will keep us constantly informed of the Appearances & State of things with you.

You will communicate this Letter to the Gentlemen of the County as an Answer to their Petition.

I am

Sir your Obed.,

H^bble Serv^t

J. REED, Presid.

SEC^y MATLACK TO A. JAMES MORRIS, 1779.

Philad^a, Oct^b 20, 1779.

Sir,

His Excellency, Genl. Washington, has called on the state of Pennsylvania for 1500 men, to co-operate with him and our good allies of France, in the present important crisis. These troops will be commanded by His Excellency, General Reed, who, of course, stands in need of an Adjutant General for the state on this occasion.

Knowing your abilities, and that the Adjutant, whoever he may be, will be of the General's family, I have taken the liberty to mention your Name to him as qualified for this service, and, by his order, now communicate it to you. The appointment will be honourable, attended with very little expence, and I am confident will be made as agreeable to you as the nature of the case will admit of

should you not be under engagements inconsistent with the acceptance of it.

The bearer is sent express in order to obtain your answer, you will therefore please to let me know your resolution on this subject. The General proposes to take the field about the middle of next week. I am, with great respect, your very humble servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

SEC'Y MATLACK TO CAPT. HARDING, 1779.

Cap^t Harding of the ship Confederacy.

Sir,

Complaint has been made to the Supreme Executive Council of this state, that you have impressed a number of men belonging to Pennsylvania, and among them many married men and landmen.

Application has been made to the Council in behalf of James Mean in particular, who has a wife in circumstances which require him to be with her, and the Council direct me to request you will immediately discharge him.

With great Respect,

I am Your very

humble servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

Indorsed.

To Cap^t Harding, of the Confederacy. Oct^r 21, 1779. .

PRES. REED TO PRES. OF CONGRESS, 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a, October 21st, 1779.

Sir,

We find ourselves under an indispensable Necessity to request the Interposition of the Hon. Body over which you preside with Respect to Cap^t. Harding of the Confederacy. It is with great Regret we observe that the Naval Officers of the United States in a very special Manner affect an Independancy of the Laws & civil Government of the State, & tho frequently wrote to & urged to conduct themselves with Respect to civil Authority & Tenderness to the People many Instances of a very contrary Spirit could be manifested. We beg leave to mention a very late one, of M^r Irwin an officer on board the Confederacy who a few Days ago used the most opprobrious & indecent Language

on a public Occasion, both of the State, its Authority & the Characters of them who administer government.

But the particular Occasion of this Address is the Conduct of the Officers of that Frigate in impressing Seamen & Lands men with many Circumstances of Hardship & Cruelty. Our Regard to the publick Necessities induced us to connive at the Practice for some time till the Abuse of it occasioned repeated Protestations to Capt. Harding who has never thought proper to pay the least Regard thereto. We cannot help observing how similar this Conduct is to that of the British Officers during our Subjection to Great Britain & are persuaded it will have the same unhappy effects viz., an estrangement of the Affections of the People from the Authority under which they act which by an easy Progression will proceed to open Opposition to the immediate Actors & Bloodshed.

We are informed that there are great Numbers of married Men impressed on return Voyages whose families are suffering in this City & many of them in Irons on board the Frigate.—The Distress to the Trade is great, but that of private Families is much greater & very derogatory to the Principles of the great Contest in which we have been engaged. With full Expectation & Confidence in the Attention of Congress & Redress.

I remain Sir

with the greatest Respect,

Your Obed^t hum^b Serv^t,

JOS REED.

Directed,

Honorable Samuel Huntingdon.

SHARP DELANY TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

I should be happy in knowing your Pleasure, respecting the Quarter Master & Adjutant's departments. The Tents, Waggon and Camp Equipage of different sorts wanted, will require some time to provide.

I have an industrious & carefull Adjutant (Lieut^t Evans) who with what assistance, I could afford, may forward & have sundry necessaries in readiness, before your Excellency may have Your Staff appointed.

Any directions You may be pleased to give respecting the Providing or applying for the above, I should be happy in receiving and am with great Respect,

Your Obed^t hum^b Serv^t,

SHARP DELANY.

Thursday 21st Oct., 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency the President of the State.

COL. WM. COATS TO COUNCIL.

To The Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

I Beg leave to inform you that agreeable to your orders I have called on the County of Philad^a for the Classes of Militia. The Returns from my Sub Lieut, I have not yet received, but am able to make a Return for the third Battalion of said County, which I have under my own Care. Yesterday agreeable to my order the two Classes of said Battalion met and on Calling the Role I found out of One hundred and Seventy two whose Tower of Duty it was there was but Thirteen agreed to March, there main excuse is that the Bounty offered is not Sufficient for the support of there Families in there absence.

I have the Honor to Remain

Gentlemen your Hum^b Serv^t,

WM COATS Lieut, C. P.

Philada, Oct., 21st 1779.

♥ SECRETARY MATLACK TO HON. SAMUEL ADAMS, 1779.

Philadelphia Octobr 22d, 1779.

Sir,

Being informed that the Convention of your State have under consideration the principle of representation, I have taken the liberty to enclose you the law of this State on that subject founded on our Constitution. Agreeable to this law each Member of the General Assembly represents about 750 Freemen.

Before the passing of this law, when the number of taxables was not known, each county sent six members, and it was feared that the small counties would have insisted on keeping up that number, if not have made a difficulty in complying with the true spirit of the constitution; but a General election has been held thro' the State, under this law, with a degree of harmony which affords a pleasing prospect of unanimity among us.

I make no apology for the freedom I have used in this case because I am sure you will do me the justice to believe that I am induced to it by the great respect with which I am

your most obedient servant,

T. M.

Directed,

Hon^{'ble} Sam^{'l} Adams, Esqr., Boston.

JAMES LOUGHEAD TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philad^a, 23 Oct., 1779.

May it Please the President & Council,

Three Comp^{rs} of Malitia are Just returned from their Tour of Duty from Billings Port & Fort Mifflin. I find it will take Nearley Six Thousand Pounds to Pay their Demands. Beg Council to grant an order on the Treasury for that sum.

I am with Due Respect,

The Councils Obed^t Hum^t Serv^t,

JAMES LOUGHEAD.

Directed,

His Excellency the President, & Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PRES. REED TO COL. WM. COATS, 1779.

In Council,

Philad^a, October 22nd, 1779.

Sir,

The Fleet under his Excell^y the Count D'Estaing not having yet arrived in order to prosecute the intended Expedition ag^t the Enemy with which the Militia required from this State by General Washington were designed to co-operate, the March of the Troops will of course be postponed.—You are therefore to give them Notice to continue in readiness at a Days Warning as completely equipp'd as possible—The Rendezvous of the Troops is appointed at Trenton, in New Jersey, such of the Troops therefore as in Situation are more contiguous to that Place will on receiving Marching Orders proceed thither by the most direct Route—These Orders you will please to convey with all possible Dispatch.

I am Sir,

your Obed. Hbbl. Serv.,

JOS. REED,
President.

T. MATLACK TO SHERIFF CLAYPOOLE, 1779.

Sir,

The Council Order me to inform you, that, in consequence of a representation to them of the state of his health, they are induced to consent to the enlargement of Peter Miller on bail. You will therefore bring him with his bail before Council immediately, if his health will admit, if not that his bail appear before Council.

I am, &c.,

T. M., Sec'y.*

Octo^r 23, 1779.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, Octo^r 23rd, 1779.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 21st Instant† was Immediately laid before Congress.

*Enclos^d is their Act of yesterday informing the proceedings which have been adopted in Consequence thereof.

I am with great Respect,

your Ex^{ra} Humble Serv^t.,

SAML. HUNTINGTON, President.

Directed,

For His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq^r, President of Pennsylvania.

MATTHEW IRWIN &C., TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philad^a, 26th October, 1779.

Sir,

Agreeable to your Excellency's orders, we now take the liberty of informing you, that we have possessed ourselves of one thousand Six hundred & Thirty seven Bushells Salt on acc^t of the State which is safely Stored. We have also to inform your Excellency, that almost every person from whom we have taken Salt, particularly

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 149.

† See page 761.

those who have purchased in Jersey at a high price, are much dissatisfied, and are become very clamorous about the price, they assert that their goods are taken from them at half value &c.

We also find that above one half of the Salt which comes to this City is either privately sold, or carried to Jersey in the night notwithstanding our best endeavours to prevent it.

The money which you furnished us with is now expended, and we are pressed for large sums, particularly by Mr John Mease, who is this day obliged to make payment to the State Treasurer for confiscated Lands, we therefore request you will give us a draft on the Treasurer for about one hundred thousand Pounds.

As the People are dissatisfied respecting the price, and the Salt continually smuggled out of Town, request your instructions on this head.

We are your Excellencys
most obd^t hum^{ble} Serv^{ts},

MATH^w IRWIN,
JAMES HOOD,
JOHN M'CULLOH,
JOHN WILSON.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

SEC^y MATLACK TO PURCHASERS OF FLOUR, 1779.

Philadelphia, Octob^r 26th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

The Council have received information, that a market of barter is set up on the Jersey Shore, where Salt is given for flour, and that quantities of flour are daily going from this State to that Market.

The Council request you will use your utmost endeavours to disappoint this Mischievous plan by watching vigilantly and seizing every barrel of Flour which may appear to be designed to be sent over Delaware.

I am with great respect,
Your very humble Servant,
T. M., Sec^y.

Directed,

Commissioners for Purchasing Flour, &c.

SEC'y MATLACK TO COL. HAGNER, 1779.

Philad. Octob. 28, 1779.

To Col. Hagner,

Sir,

You will please to proceed to the State Salt works in New Jersey and take the same into y^r possession, together with all the utensils and every thing there belonging to the State. Such things as are of a perishable nature, or which will be liable to be embezzled, you will dispose of by Public Sale, or otherwise, as you shall judge most advantageous. The Articles which you may find it proper to leave, you will put under the care of some respectable person in the neighbourhood taking his receipt for them to be delivered on demand.

By Order of the Council,

T. M., Sec'y.

COL. L. NICOLA TO SEC'y MATLACK, 1779.

Octob. 28th, 1779.

Sr,

The time for which the wood last sent me by the Commissary being expired as per account underneath I beg you will apply to his Excellency & the Hon^{le} Council for an order on the Comm^r for a further supply & you'll oblige.

Sr,

Your very humb^{le} Serv^t

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Rec'd 16th, March, 4 cords.

Allowance	
March 30, Two weeks, at 2 8	
Octob. 18, Twenty eight weeks, at 1 8	

cord 8ths.

4

8 4

4

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack Esq^r, or Acting Secretary to the Hon^{ble} Executive Council.

MCLENACHAN & IRWIN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philad^a, 28th October, 1779.

Sir,

We take the liberty of informing your Excellency, that the Sale of the Prize Ship Minervas Cargo of dryed Cod Fish comes on at Two o'clock this afternoon. As Fish is not wanted for the use of the Army, and as we find it difficult to procure Cargoes to export, we request your Excellency will give us permission to export Fish. Your answer before the Sale will much oblige,

Your Excellency's

most obdt & very humble Serv^{ts},

BLAIR M'CLENACHAN

SAML. MORRIS Jun.,

MATH^y IRWIN.*Directed,*

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq^r, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

GEN. JOHN SULLIVAN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Easton, October 23, 1779.

Sir,

I was Last Evening Honored with the Recd^t of an Act of your Executive Council & the Inclosed warrants for procuring Teams to move the Western Army, previous to the Recd^t of which the voluntary Exertions of the Inhabitants of this County had superseded the necessity of them & the Army was on its march one Day before the warrants Came to hand, I therefore Return the warrants with my Sincere thanks to the Honorable the Executive Council for their particular attention in This & Several other Instances to Remedy the Inconvenience & Supply the wants of the western Army.

I have the Honor to be with

great Respect Sir

your most obedient Servant.

JN^s. SULLIVAN.*Directed,*Hon. Tim^s Matlack Esq^r.

COL. LEWIS NICOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Two deserters from 2^d Battalion of Jersey Volunteers, left Ver-planks point last wednesday was a week ; say the garrison consisted of Robinson's Corps, about 100 of the 71st and about 30 of the artillery. The informants with some others being draughted from Robinson's as additional to the latter the evening preceding the night they deserted, they assisted in embarking one 18 and one six pounder at which time the Cannon on Stony Point was embarking.

I am with respect

Your Excellency's

Most Obed^t Humb^l Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

October 29th, 1779.*Directed,*

To His Excellency Joseph Reed President of the State.

COMMRS. FOR PROCURING SALT TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

We have been Informed, that Cap^t Guion imported from S^t Thomas's one thousand Bushels of Salt, your Exceelly will observe the Commiss^{rs} have received only five hundred & twenty Bushels of the above agreeable to the inclosed return of all Salt Collected to this day ; We are very much of opinion there is some fraud in this matter, notwithstanding Some Indulgencies shewn him, as a Stranger, by the Hon^{ble} the Executive Council—D^r Harris has not returned the Schooner with the Salt.

The Commissioners conceived it to be their duty to give the above hint respecting Mess^{rs} Guion & Harris, that the Hon^{ble} the Council may Act as their wisdom & prudence shall think proper.

We are sir

your Obed^t humble ser^{ts}for Commiss^{rs},ROB^t. AITKEN Sec^y.Philad^a., 29 Oct^r, 1779.*Directed,*To His Excell^y Joseph Reed President of Council.

VOL. VII.—38

PRES. READ TO COL. A. LOCHRY, 1779.

In Council,

Pa., October 30th, 1779.

Sir,

Your favour of the 15th Instant was delivered me by Captain Irwin, which I shall now answer particularly. Mr. Armstrongs and Mr. Jamesons Commissions are sent by Captain Irwin. We have also directed Mr. Carson, at Carlisle, to procure what necessities he can for those companies of Rangers. He took up from hence 80 blankets, and Captain Irwin this day had an order for 40 more. Shoes Mr. Carson has at Carlisle. I always thought we had wrote you fully, vesting you with the power to station Captain Irwins company for the defence of the frontiers; but if this omission happened it was supplied by orders to the Captains to be under the direction of the Lieutenants of the Counties where it was supposed their services would be most necessary. It is the clear resolution of the Council that this should be the case and that Captain Irwin receive directions from you as to his station. At the same time it is our wish and desire that if offensive operations are going forward against the savages (which in our opinion give the best protection) you would pay a due regard to Colonel Broadhead or any other Commandant of that department who should desire their assistance. To the above purpose I have wrote Colonel Broadhead by this opportunity, and request you to endeavour to preserve harmony and a good understanding in all respects as one of the most effectual means to promote the publick service. Both the Council and myself receive with great satisfaction grateful returns of the good people of the County, and as we shall not remit our care and attention to their safety and welfare it will give us great plasure to see them again happily settled in their dwellings and freed from their cruel disturbers.

You will see by the Votes which accompany this that the accounts of Captain Jacks and Captain Stokeys Companies were recommended to the Assembly in our message; and I am informed that something was done therein which was satisfactory to your members, but an Illness which I had at the close of the sessions prevented my getting more full information.

I have directed the Clerk to send you the last news papers and the laws and votes of the session, which I hope will reach you safely and give you some Idea of what is passing in this part of the World. Our affairs generally wear a favourable aspect both at home and abroad, and we flatter ourselves that this winter will produce some measures towards stopping the farther effusion of human blood.

We expect hourly to hear that the French fleet have rid the Southern States of the british forces and restored Georgia to the

Union. Our last accounts from thence were so favourable, that we can hardly doubt that by this time the whole British Army in that quarter is in our hands. The enemy have evacuated their posts on the North river and retired to New York. Domestic broils seem to be somewhat more composed than formerly, and if we are wise enough to know our own Interests I hope we may be a happy and prosperous People.

I am Sir,

your friend and humble servant,

JOSEPH REED.

PRES. REED TO COL. BRODHEAD, 1779.

In Council,

Pa., October 30th, 1779.

Sir,

Since I wrote you by your son I have received your favour of the 9th Instant. I am sorry to find any difference of opinion has arose between you and the County Lieutenants respecting the destination of the Corps of Rangers. They are a body of Men raised by Congress at the express desire of the Assembly of the State for the defence of the frontiers. The whole to be executed by the Supreme Executive Council. In these circumstances and not being personally acquainted with those stations where they might be most usefull, we put them under the direction of the Lieutenants of the Counties where it was supposed they would be necessary. Colonel Lochry therefore was justified in his claim; but at the same time it is our wish and desire that in case of any offensive operations or particular exigence they may be employed against the Common enemy. To this purpose we have wrote him and doubt not he will fully conform to any request you may make him on this head. But there are many reasons that would make it inconvenient to consider them as common Continental troops, and especially if a resignation as mentioned in your former letter or any other circumstance should occasion a Change in the Command of the department. They might in such case be drawn off from our frontiers not only occasionally but constantly, and defeat the design with which they were raised.—They are now better supplied than when you wrote. Shoes and blankets having been forwarded for them.

The regulations and arrangements of the army which you seem to want have never been published that I have seen or heard, so that the expense of procuring them is not ascertained, and of Course the information of its taking all the pay of the Officers to purchase them

is premature. I have no doubt when published, Congress will furnish their Officers with them in some proper manner.

Captain McIntire having passed on to Camp after leaving your letter, and he not being mentioned to me as sent down, I was much surprized a few days ago to learn that he was here with a party of horse to escort the cloathing, and he has since expressed some dissatisfaction at being detained. But this is unavoidable and unreasonable, for if those who send and those who are sent do not inform us, it is impossible for us to know how to transact the business. Had you mentioned him in your letter to me, or had he in his way to Camp made known the design of coming, all would have been prepared by this time, and he might have taken the benefit of the very fine weather which prevailed for some time past. As soon as I was informed of the errand he came upon, orders were issued to the Clothier to get ready the Cloathing for both Officers and Men, tho our having no returns of either will make it a blindfold piece of business. All the other regiments have given in a list of their Officers, specifying their presence or absence, and also of the strength of the regiments. From your letters and other circumstances your regiment has been fixed at 24 Officers and 250 privates, for which number cloathing is prepared and will be forwarded. As it has been procured at an amazing expence and with much difficulty, we hope it will be satisfactory. For you may be assured it was out of our power to do more under the embarrassing circumstances of our trade and the many other impediments with which we have been obliged to struggle.

The state of our treasury at present does not admit the sending money as desired in the postscript of your letter; but if it did I entreat you to consider the impropriety of it without some accounts or vouchers laid before us. I also imagine you are under some mistake with respect to the money due for recruiting men. There has been a distinction observed in the main Army between engaging those again whose times had expired, and enlisting at large, the circumstances have varied so much that the Officers here have not claimed the sum allowed equally—the Congress bounty only having been allowed in the first case and both bounties in the other.

Since the evacuation of the posts on the North river no new event has happened there. We are in hourly expectation of the Count D'Estaing, of whose arrival and partial success in Georgia, by capturing the enemys shipping we have heard. We are every moment in expectation of advice that the whole British force in that quarter are in his and General Lincolns possession.

News from Europe we have none important, there are reports that there has been an engagement between the Combined fleets and that of England in which the latter has been worsted, but I imagine they have proceeded from the capture of the Ardent, a 74 Gun ship, on her passage to join the British fleet.

Our affairs have a prosperous appearance both at home and abroad

except what regards our money—and as the State Doctors are at work we may hope that tho it has a sickly aspect it may recover.

My compliments to Colonel Bayard if with you, and am,

Dear Sir,

your obedient & very humble servant,

JOS. REED.

JUDGES OF SUPREME COURT TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Inclosed herewith you will receive the Records of the attainders of eight unhappy Wretches for Felonies, who have been sentenced in Cumberland and York Counties. As all punishments are intended for the reformation of the Parties offending, or by example to deter others from the commision of the like Crimes, and as we are of opinion that three of the Criminals, to wit, George Fletzer & Robert Story for Murder, and Thomas Pedley for Burglary, if their lives are spared, may yet reform and become useful members of society, we are induced to recommend them to your Excellency and the Council for Mercy. The two first, it is true, stand attainted for Murder, but the Malice in their Cases was only by implication of Law. Fletzer gave but one blow, but it was with a Club of such a size & laid on in such a manner as would naturally occasion death, and tho' given in a sudden gust of passion & immediately after receiving a push from the deceased, yet the Court directed & the Jury found these Circumstances were not sufficient to extenuate the Crime from Murder to Manslaughter; the other, Robert Story, was standing as a Centry to guard the Magazine at Carlisle, and after challenging three times (as he says,) but of which there was no proof, he discharged his Musket in so incautious a manner that he killed the deceased when walking the Streets in company with many others about the Hour of nine o'Clock at the latest; the deceased he had never seen before. Thomas Pedley's youth, and his having a room in the day time in the House broken, added to its being his first offence that we could hear of, plead in his behalf.

We are Sir, with the utmost regard,

your Excellency's & the Councils'

most obedient humble Servants,

THO^s M^cKEAN,

WILL. ATLEE.

York Town, October 30th, 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President &c.

HON. JESSE ROOT TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Philadelphia, 1st November, 1779.

Sir,

The Commissary General of Purchases has Orders to contract for a Supply of Flour for the Current Year not to exceed two hundred thousand Barrels, on the most reasonable Terms. Of this quantity it is expected your State will furnish seventy thousand Barrels.

The exhausted Condition of our Magazines, and the pressing wants of the Army, call for the Vigorous Exertions of the powers of your State to aid & facilitate Col. Blaine, Deputy Commissary General, (who will wait on your Excellency with this) in supplying the necessities of the Army with Bread, & preventing the most disagreeable Consequences.

Your knowledge of the public wants, & your known Zeal in promoting the Common Weal, supercedes the necessity of mentioning any other Consideration to engage your Attention & Influence.

I am, in behalf of the Committee of Congress on the Commissary & Quarter Master General's Departm^{ts},

Your Excellency's

Most Obed^t & most Hble, Serv^t,

JESSE ROOT.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

BEN. FRANKLIN TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Passy, Nov. 1st, 1779.

Sir,

A Gentleman from Holland, one of the Senators of Zivicsice, M. Van Noemor, being desirous of settling in our State with his family, and being well recommended to me, as a Person of Character, for Learning & Virtue, and likely to make a good & useful Citizen, I beg leave to present him to your Excellency, and to request for him those Civilities and that Protection which you have Pleasure in affording to Strangers of Merit. The lovers of Liberty in all Parts of Europe, begin to cast their Eyes on our State, whose Constitution they admire, and meditate a Removal thither as soon as Peace shall render a Passage more safe for themselves and Families, & the Conveyance of their Substance more secure. I am persuaded, by the numbers of Letters I have received on this Subject, that we shall have a great Number of wealthy People with their Circles of Acquaintances, and Relations. The Hospitality and Friendly Receptions reputable Settlers from any Country meet with among us, will have its usual Effects in encouraging

others to follow. And I therefore, as well as upon his own Account, hope that our Country will be made agreeable to this Gentlemen.—

With great Esteem, I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient

& most humble Servant,

B. FRANKLIN.

Indorsement,

Passy, in France, Nov. 1st, 1779. From Doct^r Franklin, Reccommending M. Van Noemor to the Protection of this State.

ANDREW KACKLINE TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Rockhill, Bucks County, Nov. 1st, 1779.

Sir,

Having, according to the Orders of the Executive Council of this State, called forth the two Classes of my Battalion, the same being the third of Bucks County, and likewise held the Day of Appeal, agreeable to Law, and Whereas, the Executive Council desired to give the same the earliest Notice of the Numbers that could be depended on to turn out on this Call, and also the Number which the said Called forth Classes bear; Therefore, I give here a true Account of the said two Classes; the Whole of the men amount to 136; and of the said Numbers that can be depended on to turn out to serve their Tower of Duty, may be about 30 men.

I am, Sir, your most

obedient & humble Servant,

ANDREW KACKLINE, S. L.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President, at Philadelphia.

COL. LEWIS NICOOLA TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Sir,

Two deserters of the Corps of Hussars left the pickett out side of Kings bridge, last Sunday was a week, with their horses & arms; they say that a pickett of a subaltern & 6 horse men is daily sent out to a hill on the continent on firing a morning gun, & returns to the island at the evening gun, which, with the Hessian Yagers, horse & foot about 800, & a guard of Hessians in redoubt N^o 8, are all the troops on the continent side of the river; from this redoubt there is a flying bridge made to swing round with the current when requisite,

the old bridge being broken down. A strong work is erected across the island about three miles from fort Washington, nearer the bridge, well supplied with artillery. No works were erected on Long island near the City; one of the informants has lately passed that ferry.

Permit me to assure you, that I am, with respect,
Your Excellencies

Most Obed^t Serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M

Nov^r 2^d, 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

COL. THOS. HARTLEY TO COUNCIL, 1778.

Sunbury, Nov. 20th, 1778.*

Honoured Sirs,

Since my last to you, of the 14th inst. Affairs have had a favourable Change in this Quarter.

On the 15th our Troops were in Motion—The Enemy had discovered us.

My advance Parties got quite to Wyoming—The rest of the Troops moving forward as—Circumstances would admit.

The Barbarians had taken a number of Cattle, between Wyoming and Nescopeck but have been obliged to leave them all & have fled with the utmost Precipitation.—

On the 17th the Communication was open & the Boats would arrive at Wyoming the Day following, with 44 Barrels of Flour, a Quantity of ammunition Salt &c., under a proper Convoy.

If the other Regiment comes to Wyoming so that we may be able to strengthen the other Posts, I trust the Frontiers will be pretty safe during the winter.

As my former Letter was something alarming I give you the earliest Intelligence of the Change of the Prospect.

A few Indians have appeared near Muncy and in Penn's vally we can manage those well enough.

I am with great Respect

your most obed^t

humble Serv^t,

THO. HARTLEY.

Directed,

The Honorable The Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

By Rob^t. Martin Esq^r.

* This paper ought, according to its date, to have been inserted on page 94 of this volume.

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